

THE
ENGLISH ROGUE;
OR,
L I F E
OF
JEREMY SHARP:

TO WHICH IS ADDED,
A NARRATIVE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY
DELIVERY OF

MARY TOFT,
Of Eighteen Rabbits;

Performed by Mr. JOHN HOWARD, Surgeon, at
Guildford, in Surry, in the Year 1726.

Published by Mr. ST. ANDRE, Surgeon and Anatomist
to his Majesty.

LIKEWISE,
AN EXACT DIARY
Of what was observed, during a close At-
tendance upon MARY TOFT, by Sir
R. Manningham, Knt. F. R. S. and of the
College of Physicians, from *Nov. 28, to*
Dec. 7.

*The World's a Wilderness, thro' which Men run,
Some to undo, and some to be undone.*

The Eighth Edition, in Three Volumes.
VOL. II.

LONDON:

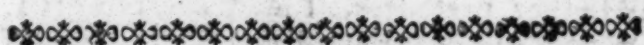
Sold by R. Hopwood, Crown-court, Soho; and all Bookfellers
in Town and Country.

MDCCLXXVI.





T H E
ENGLISH ROGUE;
O R, T H E
L I F E
O F
JEREMY SHARP.



C H A P. VIII.

JEREMY pretending courtship to several women, gets a small parcel of money, and returns to England; turns strolling player, and afterwards highwayman.

BEING now left to shift for myself, having lost the main prop of my building, I was forced to set my brains to work

VOL. II.

B

for

for a fresh support, and thought there was no way more likely to answer my end than by addressing the fair sex. Beauty was not the mark I aimed at for the present; since that, like virtue is its own reward; but I wanted something more substantial, and therefore made my applications to some old rich widows, and thrifty maids, who, though a little stale and antiquated, had laid up where-withal in service, and, otherwise, to purchase them suitors; upon promise of marriage, and other pretences, I deluded some of these, and got a small matter of money, with which I crossed St. George's Channel, and arrived in twenty four hours at West-Chester.

I took up my quarters in the best inn in the town where I had not been long, but hearing a drum beat, I asked the occasion of it, and was answered, that it was for the play, there being a company
of

of strolling players in the town, nay, in that very inn, who were to act that night, the true and ancient History of King Lear and his three daughters. To amuse time, I thought I would throw away one shilling on this shew, and so in I went, and was very much surprized to see so large, and so polite an audience, at such a distance from London; but much more so when I found the play was tolerable well acted, and the principal part performed by my friend Joe Barnes, whom I have mentioned before to have been acquainted with at the nursery in Hatton - Garden. I was greatly rejoiced to see my old comrade, in hopes we should crack a merry bottle together, and besides that, I did not doubt but he would bring me acquainted with the girl that acted the part of the Princess Cordella, the most delicious creature, of about eighteen years of age, that I then thought I had ever seen in my Life. The whole audience

were charmed with her, as well for her person as her action, and she was, without doubt, the more admired, as it was a very new thing to see a woman upon the stage; for, 'till within a very little time, no such thing had ever appeared, the woman's parts being always acted by men in women's apparel; and that is one reason that the critics have given why our immortal Shakespeare made his women's parts so slight as they are in most of his plays, thinking, perhaps, that the spectators would not bear that awkward imitation of the beautiful sex long upon the stage at a time.

THE play being over, I went to my friend Joe, who was very glad to see me, and we agreed to sup together, which, he told me, I might take as a particular favour, since, by that, he should lose the company of his dear Cordelia: Why then, said I, are you so fond of her, that you
grudge

grudge every minute that you pass not in her company? And have I not reason, answered he, Is she not the sweetest girl you ever saw? I told him I thought her very pretty, but would not let him know how much I was charmed by her, lest it might make him jealous, and so baulk the design I had upon her. Well, said I, that I may not deprive you of so much happiness, as you seem to propose to yourself in the company of your mistress, what if we should all sup together, you shall be my guest, and I will bespeak something that's pretty for supper. He said I was very obliging, and he believed he could prevail upon the lady to come, which I afterwards found was no difficult matter; for with a modest look, and a great deal of seeming innocence, so much impudence and lewdness I never met with in any woman before, or since. It may well be supposed, she wanted not assurance, by her venturing to be one of the first who

appeared in that way of business, and strolling about, from place to place, with a company of fellows, of a profession, not remarkable for the strictest moral and decency of behaviour.

SUPPER being over, we drank about pretty smartly, and Madam but seldom baulked her glass; entertaining us with several songs, for she had a pretty voice, and very agreeable manner; the words, indeed, were not such as would have become the mouth of a vestal.

I HAD always been a great lover of plays, and was fond of getting speeches by rote; two or three I could repeat in the very play that had been acted that had been acted that night; which my friend Joe was pleased to say I did with a great deal of grace, and wished I would come upon the stage; the master of their company he was sure, he said, would
give

give me encouragement. I told him, they seemed to lead such pleasant lives that I would consider of it, and did not know but I might make one among them. Cordelia trod upon my toe and wink'd at me, which I could not guess the meaning of at that time, but the next morning being in the Inn-yard by myself, a window opened, and the fair Princess beckoning to me to come to her chamber, I immediately obeyed the summons, when she told me in a great hurry, that she was watch'd and could not tell me there what she had to say to me, but if in an hour's time, I would be in the little meadow about half a mile out of the town, she would meet me there. I promised to attend her, and found her punctual to her assignation.

DEAR Sir, said she, I fear you will wonder at my being so forward in making an appointment with a gentleman
whom

whom I never had the pleasure of seeing but once before; and let me say it was a pleasure. Were I to tell you the good opinion I have entertained of you, from our last night's conversation, you would think, perhaps, I went a step farther than can well be justified in one of our sex; but ———, but, Madam, said I, interrupting her, you can do nothing amiss; every word you speak, and every motion of your lovely person, is so agreeable. I wish you really thought so, replied she, That I do, I will assure you, said I; but to what purpose, since you are already another's; and Mr. Barnes's happiness must give me endless despair. Joe Barnes, said she, is not the happy man you imagine him; and that, perhaps, he fancies himself he had some little share in my affection 'till I saw you, but now I utterly despise him: and, to convince you of my esteem of you, and regard for your welfare, I begged this meeting with you, that

I might

I might caution you against making any encouragement with the master of this wretched company, who is the veriest brute in nature; he has neither humanity, sense, nor honesty; and, to tell you the truth, the company is in most hideous circumstances: there are three gentlemen who have but two shirts between them; we have shared but eighteen-pence a-week for this fortnight; and though there was a terrible house last night, the master will contrive ways to sink half in his own pocket without accounting for it to us. We owe money in every house in the town that would give us credit, and, I am afraid, will shortly be whipped out of it. For my part, I have been plotting how to get safe away, and have a pressing invitation from Mr. Colster, who is a master of the company at Northampton, to come thither; which I have kept a secret, until this minute, from every body; not that I value the few debts that

I owe

I owe here; because, what none of the company can say besides, I am able to pay them; but I think the money will do me more good, so shall make no scruple of giving my creditors the bag to hold: but my chief reason of going away privately is, to get rid of that fond fool, your friend, Joe Barnes, who is so very impertinent, that, were I married to him, I could not be so watched; and liberty is a blessing I will never part with if I can help it. Well, said I, you are a girl after my own heart, and I could follow you to the end of the world. Will you follow me, said she, to Northampton? That I will, answered I; but will it not be better to wait upon you thither? No, said she, that will make us suspected; I have laid the scheme for my own conveyance thither, and do you contrive for yourself; but tell your friend Joe, you are going another way, you may easily find means to satisfy him, and tell him you only
joked,

joked, when you talked of turning player; but when you came to Northampton, if you have a mind to enlist yourself among the heroes of the buskin, you will find it much more to your advantage than with this paltry rascal at Chester.

I lik'd the lady's proposal mighty well, and was transported with the thoughts of enjoying so charming a creature; though her great forwardness did a little disgust me, and I could have wished she would have let me have had a little more trouble with her, I should then have thought my conquest more valuable. After I had kissed her two or three times, and swore an eternal constancy and affection to her, we took leave under some trees in the meadow, and I saw her no more 'till night, when she acted the part of Celia, in the Humorous Lieutenant. In the mean time, I met my friend Joe, and he ask'd me, if I had considered of what we talk'd
of

of the last night; Why, answered I, Could you believe me in earnest, Pry'thee man, I have dealings in the world of great consequence, and now expect an hundred head of oxen from Ireland, with the first fair wind. Joe ask'd pardon for mistaking my circumstances, and hoped I would excuse him, and from that time paid great respect to me as a man of substance, and that he might appear the more considerable himself for having such acquaintance, he took care to let my landlord and others know what a wealthy man I was, which answer'd very well to my design. I call'd about me in the house for every thing very liberally, treating Joe, and two or three more of the copper kings, with wine, and what else they had a mind to, as I never intended to pay for it; and as the wind sat fair to favour my cheat, blowing East-North-East, by which no shipping could come out of Ireland. One morning I came to my landlord, and told him

him, that on account of my cattle's not arriving, I was disappointed of money; therefore desired him to let me have ten pounds, and he should have the choice of the best of my beasts, if he had a mind to it, he very readily granted my request, and brought out the money with much complaisance, being unwilling to disoblige so good a customer.

THE next, being market-day, I bought me an excellent gelding, with handsome furniture, without my landlord or Joe's knowing any thing of the matter, and then made the best of my way to Northampton; but the better to disguise the business, and prevent a pursuit, I wrote a letter to the landlord, and told him, that a ship being just then going off to Ireland, and I having some urgent business there that I had forgot before, I took that opportunity to go back, but would positively return when my cattle

came. In that I am sure I told no lye, tho' if a lye or two would have been of any service, I seldom stuck at such niceties.

WHEN I came to Northampton, I expected every day to meet my Cordelia there, but it was a full week before she arrived, and as soon as she did, she found me out, and seem'd extremely well pleased that I had shewn such a readiness to follow her advice; after such a proof of my affectation, she told me, she would not put me to any farther trials, and play the coquet with me; this was a new word which I scarce knew the meaning of, till she explained it to me, and told me it was the same that Beaumont and Fletcher meant by the Scornful Lady, when they gave a play of theirs that title, for want of this significant French word.

AND

AND indeed she was sincere, for I had really less pains than I desired in being put into possession of every thing he could grant me. Colster, the master of the itinerant dolls, and conductor of the living puppet-show, was a very pleasant old fellow, who acted Falstaff to a miracle, he did us the favour of his company that evening, and was transported to find that the princess Cordelia was come to assist on his theatre, where she was to make her appearance from behind a large traverse rag of divers colours, on a stage, adorned with many clay candlesticks, and built over a stable and two hog-lies, in the back-yard of an inn. She was to shew away first in King Lear, for the part she acted in that, was was she did to the most perfection, and what had fixed the title of the princess Cordelia upon her. When she told the old man that I intended to shew my shapes on the stage, he desired to hear me speak a speech or two, which

when I had done, he took me by the hand, and cry'd, Th's will do, my dear boy, you shall come into the company upon the best terms; I will allow you a share and a half at once. Our profits are divided into twenty shares, four I keep to myself, one for my cloaths, one for my management, and two for acting; not that I think myself a better actor than some othes in the company, but the master, you know, should have some preference to keep up his authority. The princess here, as she deserves more than any body else, shall have a share and a half, and yourself, as I told you before, another share and a half, so that we three shall have above a third part of all the profits to ourselves. You will be of infinite service to us, for as you are so slim and have such a smock face, you will do mighty well in women's parts, which are what we are most deficient in. We could make no objections to the offer he made

us,

us, upon which I had the part of Regan given to me, another of Lear's daughters, and applying myself to the study of it, with a happy memory, I was perfect in it the next day, and perform'd it not with a little applause from an audience of gentry, and a croud of clodhoppers: and country-wenches. A young country-squire, the heir, as I afterwards found, to a good estate, came behind our curtain, scenes were not then in use, nor till several years after; he was very sweet upon Cordelia, and by turns upon me, taking me, I believe, for a real woman, but when he found his mistake, which he had not so soon done, if he had not offered some rudeness, he desired we might take a glass together, when the play was over, which I consenting to, he then told me how much he was in love with the princess, and that he would give an hundred guineas to enjoy her. She is my wife, Sir, said I, and this is an old de-

claration to make to an husband; but, however, since you are so much in love, continued I, and seem to be a generous gentleman, I would not have you despair; we players are a whimsical sort of people, and will do any thing for money. He seemed to be a little confounded at first, but recovering himself upon my bidding him not despair. he took a pretty diamond ring from his finger, and desired me to accept of it as an earnest of his future friendship. Is it possible, said he, you can be so good as to forgive what I have said; I will do more, said I, get but my wife's consent, and you shall find me no obstacle to your passion; This is generosity beyond example, said he, tho' no doubt, he laugh'd in his sleeve, to see what a contented cuckold he had to deal with; but the princess and I were even with him, for I told her the whole story when I came home, and then we laughed in our turn, and resolved to contrive

trive how to gull the honest—'squire of some of his money. It was agreed that I should pretend to do all I could to assist his suit, she was to be extremely coy and reserved, and to talk much of virtue and honour, which would the more enflame him, as those were words he could little expect from the mouth of a player.

THE 'squire was very assiduous; came every night to the play, and watch'd every opportunity to speak to his dear charmer; I was sure of being treated lavishly before I went to bed, and I one night gave him to understand, that I would assist to put him there in my room, if no other way could prevail; but I advised him to use all possible means first to get her consent. The 'squire was quite transported with what I said to him, and told me, he would follow my advice in every thing, and in order to try to make himself more acceptable to my supposed wife,

wife, he begged he might have the pleasure of carrying us in his coach the next day, a little way out of town for an airing, which we were not a little proud of, that the master and the rest of the company might see how we were respected.

WE went about eight miles out of town, the next morning, and there were entertained with a very handsome dinner. The 'quire behaved in such a manner, and piec'd matters so home, that I found the princess, who was made of very yielding clay, had much ado to keep up to the character she had assumed; It was a more difficult part for her to act, I presently saw, than any she performed on the stage, for to speak the truth, the 'quire was a handsome well-made man, and had I left them together one quarter of an hour, I believe all my scheme had been knock'd o'the head. I was forced

to call her aside several times, and warn her to be a little more upon the reserve, otherwise we should lose all the advantages we might make of him; on the other hand, I told the 'squire that what I said to her when I took her aside, was all for his service, to persuade her to make a grateful return for so many favours as he was heaping upon us; this was mighty well taken, and at our return home, he slipped five guineas into Cordelia's hand, to buy her some little ornaments that she might want for the stage.

THE princess, tho' on other occasions she did not want wit, was weak enough to let me see that the squire had made an absolute conquest over her, and that she was downright in love with him, this was so far from raising any jealousy in me, and adding fresh fuel to my flame, as it sometimes happens in affairs of this sort, that it quite extinguished every spark of affection

affection I had left, for I was before almost surfeited with her lascivious fondness, and therefore resolved to make the most of this intrigue and then get rid of her, and the company at once. for I found the life they held very disagreeable, their pride with their poverty was intolerable, the ladies, tho' they had scarce any rags to their backs of their own, and the gentlemen, who were half lousy for want of linen to shift them, were so infected by the parts they acted, that they almost fancied themselves equal to the personages they represented; the women were as saucy as countesses, and the men, if they were tragedians, all fancied themselves heroes, and the comedians wits, tho' they could scarce read their parts. I resolved to wash my hands of my dirty companions as soon as possible, finding this trade was a very lazy and unprofitable one, and so took an opportunity to strike a bargain one night, when alone with
the

the 'squire, I told him, I was in great necessity for twenty guineas, which sum, if he would be so good as to lend me, I would that very night put him in possession of the treasure he had seem'd so much to covet; the 'squire overjoyed at what I said, told me, he would give me the money that instant if I would promise to keep my word with him, and shew him by what means it was to be done. I then told him, my wife was gone to bed by that time, and if he pleas'd I would lead him to the door of the bed-chamber myself, where he would have nothing to do but to undress, and go to bed, and that I would find another lodging for myself. The 'squire took his purse, and told out the cash with all the precipitation imaginable; Dear Jerry, said he, there's the sum you say you want, and you shall have a friend of me on all emergencies. Thou art a generous fellow, I have not time to thank you as I ought,

ought, for I would not lose a moment now to be master of the world.

WITH that, desiring me to lead the way, I carried him to the door of the chamber where I and my Cordelia usually lay, and when I had turned him in, I could not help the curiosity of listening a little, to hear how he would be saluted by the princess, when she came to find out the cheat that was put upon her; but I could hear them in a very short time laughing, and very pleasant together, by which I found no rape had been committed. So I curs'd her for an inconstant whore, and went away, resolving never to see her again.

IN the morning early I ordered the hostler to get my horse ready, for I had all the while I was at Northampton, kept the gelding I bought at West-Chester, tho' if I had not had something of my own,

own, I found my new business of a player would not have kept myself. While I was walking about the yard, and getting my breakfast, who should I see come into it, fatigued and almost tired to death, but my old acquaintance Joe Barnes; Heavens! said he, what do I see? O! how glad should I have been to have met you any where but here, Mr. Sharp! but now I see my ruin is inevitable. What is it you mean Joe, said I, I wish you very well, I hope I shall not be your ruin. O! continued he, you have betrayed me, robb'd me of all my soul held dear, my charming, my adorable Cordelia. I could not have suspected this? I have travelled night and day, to come to her as soon as I heard where she was, but little did I imagine, who was with her, for I really believed, and so does my landlord at Chester, that you were gone to Ireland. Faith, Joe, said I, I must confess the princess and I have been

VOL. II,

D

a little

a little familiar together, but if you really love her as much as you say, I will from this moment renounce my title to her; nay, if you desire it, will never see her more; if you will promise that, answered Joe, I shall be happy, for I don't believe any man upon earth could have seduced her away from me but yourself. Poor Joe, said I, how blind is love! and dost thou verily think her so constant, and that she loves thee? She did, answer'd Joe, before you divided her from me, and I say again, that none but yourself could have gain'd any conquest over her. Now, Joe, said I, you are to be pitied indeed. To be so fond of, and so mistaken in a creature, who is so far from being constant to one man, that she even seduced me hither, instead of my taking pains to seduce her, and is at this instant in bed with another man, she had scarce seen above twice, and never before she came here, Have a
care

care, said he, how you traduce the fairest of her sex; for by all the Gods!——
 Prithce, good Othello, said I, suspend thy tragedy airs for half a minute, and I will give thee the ocular proof of thy Desdemona and her gallant's making the beast with two backs. So I conducted him to the chamber-door, and left him, and the other two to make up matters as well as they could, and from that hour to this have never heard what become of any of them; for, as soon as I came down stairs, I found my horse was ready, and so I immediately mounted and rode off; my baggage, which was but one clean shirt and a band, I had in a pocket of my doublet. I stopt at a shop in the town, and with part of the 'quire's money I bought a brace of very good pistols, with powder and ball, and now thought myself thoroughly equipt for a new profession.

I HAD not gone far before three men well mounted, rode by me, I found them afterwards to be the van-guard, having as many more in the rear. At the bottom of an hill, those who were before, faced about, bidding me stand, and were reinforced by those in the rear. One of them clapt a pistol to my breast, commanding me forthwith to deliver, and with three or four round oaths : I saw it would be to little purpose to resist, though I was so well armed and mounted, and therefore I endeavoured to subdue them another way, by compliments and fair speeches. Gentlemen, said I, ye are much mistaken, which I wonder at, since certainly I look as suspiciously as any of you, and do assure you that I have no other business than yours on the road ; but I think I take the better course to avoid being apprehended, for you gentlemen that rob in companies, not only run the hazard of being taken in the fact,

but

but of being betrayed by one another. Now, Sirs, said I, freely examine my pockets; where finding so much coin, they demanded how I came by it? I presently invented a lye to their general satisfaction; which was, that I had met with a booty a little before, and they were confirmed in the truth of what I said by seeing my pistols and ammunition. Well, said one of them, if you are really what you pretend to, you will make no scruple of joining us; but, for the reason I told you before, answered I, of trading on my own bottom; but, however, as you seem all to be men of spirit, who won't easily be taken, and when ye are, to have more honour and courage, than meanly to save' your own lives, betray your friends, from this minute I am yours.

HEREUPON every man took me by the hand in his turn, and we agreed to

make merry at the next inn, where I was to be admitted a brother. Being come into a large room, and compliments pass'd, the chief, as I judg'd him to be, by the respect the rest paid him, address'd himself to me : You are a fresh man, said he, and therefore want some of our instructions, which we shall be free to give you, but in the first place it is absolutely necessary that you take the oath, which every young thief must observe on his being initiated into the society, and invest'd with the honour of being one of the knights of the road.

AFTER I had been sworn, Come my new knight, said the grand thief, composing his countenance, be ruled by me, whose long experience makes me able to command. Then he ran thro' all the rules to be observed with respect to lurking in corners to observe the road ; attacking our prey, avoiding an hue and cry

cry, separating from our companions, rallying again, &c. and when this was over, it was agreed we should take a little airing that afternoon; when we came to mount, one of my new companions had a beautiful mare, which I could not help taking notice of, he likewise commended my gelding, and ask'd what I would give him to swap; in short, after a few words, we came to an agreement, and for two guineas to boot I had his mare; but I had much better have kept my own horse, for by this exchange I had like to have lost my life and credit too. Being come upon a heath, we were to take several ways, and meet at the same house at night that we came from, but this I found afterwards, was only a contrivance to see how I would behave myself. I had not been long separated from my companions before I met a single man, whom I bid stand, which he would have done, and as willingly have surrendered

rendered his purse, but that he was mounted on a stone-horse, which as soon as I came up, and gave the word of command, wheeled off, and came in the rear of me, I, expecting a gentle salute from his fore paws, endeavoured all ways to prevent it; but there was something it seems, under my mare's tail too powerful for me; I led him round and round several times, the poor harmless gentleman, fearing he should provoke me too much by delays, the unruliness of his horse hindering him from delivering his money, cry'd out, Worthy Sir, you are welcome to what I have, spare my life I beseech you; at that very instant his horse rearing his two fore-feet upon me and my mare, I was so frightened, that I thought he said, he would not spare my life, and so setting spurs to my mare, I fled as it were through the air, but notwithstanding all the speed I made, the other was close at my heels, striving to get

get along, and kicking with both my legs, one of my pistols went off in my pocket, the apprehension of the present danger had bereft me of the true use of my understanding, for I imagined that my back friend had discharged at me, which made me roar out for quarters. He, on the contrary, thinking I had fired backwards like the old Parthians, with much eagerness, cried out, as you are a man be merciful. Sometimes he would say, for heaven's sake stop, stop, which made me ride the more furiously, thinking he call'd to the country to stop me. At last, do what I could, his stone-horse leapt upon us, and immediately, by what means I know not, we all came headlong to the ground. I now expected, that my imaginary adversary would be upon me, and cut my throat before I should recover my legs, wherefore I started up, and found my dreaded foe, was up before me, and upon the run. I
could

could almost have hanged myself to think how much I had been mistaken, and what way I had given to unmanly fear; but now I was myself again, and pursued my game, easily making myself master of him and his purse. Sirrah, said I, if ever I meet thee again, and find thee so obstinate, I will tie thee to a tree stark naked, and leave thee there, after I have made thee eat a piece of thy own sword, cook'd up in blood and gunpowder. It pleased me exceedingly to see how pitiful and submissively he look'd, for had he ventured to have given me one frown, I verily believe I could not have uttered half so much.

As I was framing a lye to delude my companions, when I should meet them, into a belief of my valour, and how dexterously I had acquit myself in the execution of the business I had undertaken, I look'd about, and saw them all at my elbow.

elbow. I now perceiv'd by their fleeing countenances, that they had been eye-witnēsses to my dangerous encounter. O brother! said one of them, how is't, I hope you are well. I ask'd him the reason of his impertinent question? Nay, said he, we have seen the danger you were in, and how narrowly you escaped being shot by a pocket inkorn. Without doubt, brother, you are very hard hearted, to fly, riding full speed, at the very words of good Sir be merciful, the poor harmless soul making frequent repetition of it; but you stopt your ears to all his intreaties, 'till his stone-horse seem'd to be his advocate, and to that intent ran after your mare, endeavouring to court her into an intercession for his master. I should never have stopt their mouths had I not shewn t em what I had gotten, which was considerable. About twilight we met with two persons, whom we set upon, but found them of quite different

different tempers from the former, for instead of yielding immediately, as we expected, they made such a stout resistance, that had we not overpowered them in number, and subdued them by main strength, they would have sooner died on the spot, I believe, than have parted with their money ; but however we bound them, and having taken all they had, we crossed the country in fear of a pursuit, by divers by-ways, and came to a little village, in which was a kind of obscure inn, where we spent almost all our booty, the host bringing in what wine he thought proper, without being called for, the hostler too, knowing what course we took, was one of our company, and hail-fellow with us, without our daring to complain, lest he should betray us. Sic nos non nobis, So we robb'd for them, and not for ourselves. And this indeed is the common fate of the gentlemen of the road, that they

they venture their necks for the advantage of others.

I soon grew weary of being in so large a gang, and so, one day, pretending to pay a visit to an uncle, I found means to get from them, and in a short space made several prizes, that supplied me with more money than I had occasion for. One evening riding along the road, I spy'd a brisk country lass, about fifteen, with a milk-pail upon her head, just entering a gate, to do the office of a milk maid, with whose features I was so taken, that I could not chuse but fix my eyes upon her, and to have the better opportunity, I ask'd her several questions about the way, and the names of the adjacent villages, to which she made me such modest and innocent replies, that I resolv'd to be farther acquainted with her, and so rid into the field; at which she began to be in some consternation.

ation, supposing I intended her injury, but when, with many protestations, I had satisfied her to the contrary, she hushed her fears, and we began to discourse of divers matters, yet so powerfully her charms wrought in my mind, that every stroke she gave the Cow's dugs with her pretty fingers, put strange fancies into my head, making me forget, or not regard, what I had protested; when gaining her at an advantage, the coaft being clear, and a great way from any houses, I obliged her to grant my desire; after which, I protested so much love for her, that I dried up those few tears that fell, and it was agreed between us, that she should go home to her father's house, and towards night I would come thither likewise, as if I had never seen her before, but came casually that way to enquire the road.

WHEN

WHEN the time appointed came, my dear Girl was at the gate waiting for me, and after we had spoke a few words together, she subtilly goes in, and informs her father and mother, that there was a gentleman, for she was sure I could be no other by my garb and gesture, who, being benighted and fearing travel farther, not knowing his way, desired to rest himself there till the morning.

THE old people very readily complied with my conquest, and usher'd me into their house with a great deal of respect. At night the kind damsel contrived ways to creep into bed to me, and we were so happy that in the morning I could not think of parting for my soul, so that I feign'd myself sick, and continued there a fortnight, at the end of which I began to make love publickly to my country mistress, before the old people's faces, which
they

they were very well pleased with, as I had before shewn them good store of gold, and made them believe that I was possessed of a good estate: nor was I less diligent to enquire of my young mistress what store the father had by him, when to my great disappointment, she assured me, he had not five pounds in the house, having lately paid a considerable sum for a purchase, whereupon I concluded to be gone; however, the night before the morning I intended to be jogging, being about to take, in the usual manner, my last farewell of my mistress, in a back room where a great many milk pans stood, we unfortunately threw down some of them together with the form they stood on, which made such a clattering, that, before we could disengage, in came the old man, and too plainly perceived what game we had been at, seeming greatly dissatisfy'd, but I still promising marriage, and making many
excuses

excuses for my mistress, things were hushed up for the present, and I, to prevent farther importunity, mounted without the knowledge of the family before day, and stopped not 'till I was twenty miles distance.

HAVING left the farmer and his wife to condole the loss of their daughter's virginity: As I was riding carelessly on the road, in a bottom between two coppices, a suppos'd gentleman, well mounted, started from behind a thicket, or a little tuft of trees, and bade me deliver, to which I replied, if he would have a little patience he should have his desire, and with that I drew out a pocket pistol and fired it at him, but without any execution. O! if you are for a little sport, said the gentleman, I shall shew you some instantly; whereupon drawing a pistol he shot me into the leg, having so done, with his sword, which hung

ready at his wrist, neatly at a blow he cut the reins of my bridle, so that I was not able to guide my horse; but he being at good command and us'd to the charge, with the winding of my body I gave him to understand what he was to do. Come, Sir, said my adversary, have you enough yet? In faith, Sir, said I, I'll exchange but one pistol more, and if that prove unsuccessful, I shall submit to your mercy; whereupon I shot but miss'd my mark, however, I killed his horse which instantly fell, my gentleman was so nimble that before I could think what to do, he had sheathed his sword in my horse's belly, which made me come tumbling down too. Once more, said my antagonist, we are upon equal terms, and since the obscurity of the place gives us freedom, let us try our courage; for one must fall; and thereupon, with his sword, made a full pass at my body, but, putting it by, I clos'd in with him, and upon

upon the hug threw him with so much facility that I wondered at it, which I need not have done, since his nature, as afterwards I understood was so prone to it. Having him down, now Sir, said I, I shall teach you to be careful on whom you set, and then binding his hands I began to take the booty; unbuttoning his doubtlet to find whether there was not gold quilted in the lining, which is practised by some gentlemen when they travel, I was much surpriz'd to see a pair of breasts unexpectedly larger and whiter than any man's; but being intent upon my business that amazement soon vanished my thoughts; at length coming to the breeches, which I laid open, not omitting to search every place wherein I suspected any money might be concealed, but making a proffer to remove his shirt from between his legs, he suddenly cry'd out, and strove to lay his hand upon the place, but could not, it was tied
so

so fast : I beseech you, Sir, said he, be civil; by which I imagin'd there was some uncommon treasure hidden there, which made me hastily pull away the shirt, or rather smock, and then found myself not mistaken.

THE fight at first amazed me as much as if I had stared upon the Gorgon's head; but after a little pause, I unbound her and took her in my arms, pardon me most courageous amazon, said I, for thus rudely dealing with you, it was my ignorance that caused my error, for could my dim-sighted soul have distinguished what you were, the great love and respect I bear to your sex, would have prevented my using such violence to any part of it, much less to such a miracle; but I esteem this ignorance as a happiness since without it, I could have never found so much prowess in a woman. She return'd me thanks for all my compliments

pliments and civilities, but intreated me to be private in what I had discovered, and said, if I would go along with her, she would repair the loss of my horse, by bestowing a better upon me; I was very ready to obey her commands, so taking the furniture from our dead beasts, we passed through the coppice, and after that through an overgrown wood, where under an extraordinary shadow of trees stood a little house, into this we entered, and were by my hostess, extremely welcomed; wine we had, tho' contrary to my expectation, in such a place, and in a trice a couple of fowls were laid to the fire, and made ready; when in came two other amazons in men's apparel, who being told by my pretty padder, who I was, with the relation of our adventure, we soon became acquainted, so that the mirth increasing, we proceeded to a more amorous combat, but I being the only pike-man, found the service too hot
for

for me, and a cessation of arms was had at my entreaty; and then they inform'd me who they were, and how they came to undertake this piece of knight-errantry, and the next morning being provided with a stately gelding, sent from a private stable, after they had obliged me to secrecy, I took my leave.

BEING again well mounted, I resolv'd not to quit my new undertaking; and therefore proceeded to scour the road, but meeting with no booty, I came to the inn where I had been before with the gang I first fell into, and who was no sooner got into the yard, but the hostler came up to me, and taking hold of my bridle, whispered in my ear, and told me that a gentleman with a considerable sum of money was not above a mile before me; telling me what road he took, and that he knew him to be a cowardly fellow. For this news, and to bribe him

to

to silence, I gave him an angel, and not staying to drink, I posted after my gentleman, and had soon sight of him from the top of a little rising, he rode an ordinary pace, wherefore I slackened my pace to cool my horse: however I soon overtook him, and rode by him, not without viewing him well; riding down the hill, I alighted purposely that he might overtake me, which he did; being passed, I remounted, and at the bottom of the hill I bid him stand and deliver instantly, or he was a dead man, Sis, Sis, S—ir, said he, stammering very much, I—I—I, am go—ing home. I bade him not make any delays lest he finarted, and therefore wished him to dispatch, and give me his money, for I knew he had a considerable sum behind him. 'T—t—tis true, replied he, be—be—but it is my father's m—m—money. Hang your father, said I, and the fluttering coxcomb, his son, I must have
what

what you have got. W—W—Why then you shall, said he, and with that drew out a pocket pistol and fired at me, which made my horse start, and very much surprized me, not in the least suspecting any resistance from such a seemingly ignorant and cowardly fellow; by that means he had time and liberty to draw his sword, which was almost as broad as a chopping knife, and came upon me so furiously, that not having time to defend myself, he soon laid me at his mercy.

I WAS forced to beg hard for my life, which I obtained with much ado; then he fell to my pockets, not leaving any suspected place unsearch'd, by which I guess'd him to be one of our own trade, and was not mistaken. He looked upon my horse, and seemed to like it very much: Wherefore, Ha—ha—harkee, said he, you are b—but a raw thi—ef a
me—

me—me—me—mere child, and should go to a ma—ma—master to be whipt for your fo—fo—folly. You said you must ha—ve my fa—fa—father's m^e—mo—money, but I will have your hau—hau—horse, and so farewell. He was so kind indeed as to leave me his, which was but a pitiful jade. Necessity compell'd me to mount him, and anger spur'd me on to be revenged on the hostler, but then I considered with myself, that probably the horse might be known there, and so I should be detected; wherefore I rode a contrary way, and took up my lodging in a place where I had never been before. As soon as I alighted, abundance of people flocked about me, seeing me all bloody, to know the cause thereof. Whereupon I related in a very doleful manner how this sad accident befel me.

“ That travelling to such a place, with
 “ about an hundred and fifty pieces of
 “ gold, I was set upon by five or six luf-

“ ty rogues, who robb’d me, and be-
 “ cause I made what resistance I could,
 “ to save what I had, being all I was
 “ worth in the world, they had barba-
 “ rously wrangled me, hacking and hew-
 “ ing me ’till they were weary, and at
 “ last, with much difficulty, I escap’d
 “ with my life.” This relation moved
 the standers-by to such compassion, that
 a surgeon was immediately sent for, and
 a small gathering made for me to defray
 my charges; yet such was my ill luck,
 that the next morning my horse was
 known, the true owner, who house was
 not far off, and who had been formerly
 of the pad himself, but since reclaimed,
 and son to a gentleman of a considerable
 estate, not being to be found, I was
 question’d for the murder of him; tho’
 the occasion of his absence was only to
 make merry with the money he had taken
 from me; and I not being able to give a
 satisfactory account of myself, and how
 I came

I came by the horse, being caught tripping upon my examination. The justice before whom I was carried, seeing my wounds, and judging that there had been a dangerous, and very likely a mortal battle to occasion them, could do no less than send me in that wounded condition to the country goal, on so strong a suspicion: but the gentleman appearing in a few days, I was discharged at the next assizes, none coming against me.

ABOUT a week after, there came a gentleman to the same inn where I lay, who hearing some of the house discoursing of the robbery that was lately committed, he desired to be particularly informed about it, which he was, and told, that the wounded gentleman lay then in the house. He enquired my name, which they answered, as I had told them was Latroon. He desired much to pay me a visit. and I being told of it, and having no company,

very readily admitted him. as soon as he entered the room, I verily thought I knew him, but could not at the instant call to mind where I had seen him. I was so muffled about the chops, that it was impossible for him to have any knowledge of me. He sat down by me, and ask'd me several questions, which I answered in the manner I thought the most convenient. But at length I recollected him to have been Clerk to an Attorney, in the neighbourhood where I lived in the city of London, and immediately ask'd him if his name was not——? He answered me in the affirmative. Dear friend, said I, I am glad to see you: Come do not be amazed, my right name is Sharp. What Jerry, said he, and embraced me with much joy, being as glad to have thus accidentally met with an old acquaintance as I was. Laying aside all formal niceties, I entirely unboomed myself to him, not mincing the truth in
the

the least of any of my past adventures, for we knew ourselves to be birds of a feather. He condoled with me upon my wounded condition, and comforted me, by telling me he would not leave me 'till I was well, and that he would procure me such a plaister for the wounds I had received and should prove effectual in my cure. While he continued with me, he gave me an account of his life and behaviour since I last had seen him; he had been bred with an Attorney, who, to speak a bold word, was reckoned the greatest of his profession, and he must have been bad indeed if his man did not outdoe him, for when he had recounted to me the transactions of those few years since he was out of his clerkship, he appeared to me so stupenduously knavish, that I concluded all my rogueries were nothing compared to his, and plainly saw that I was but a novice in villiany. I shall be so cautious as not to mention

them, lest I should by bringing others acquainted with them, teach them how to put them in practice to the ruin of distressed families. But I will give my readers advice to beware of the dangers he shewed me, by troubling the law as little as possible, suffering a small loss rather than seeking redress by means of an Attorney, and if any are forced to it, let him have the fingering of as little of your money as may be.

THIS rogue, as it happens with all rogues, had met with many ups and downs, sometimes triumphing in the ill-gotten spoils of his miserable clients, and sometimes ready to hang himself; but from a successful piece of mischief, which he had just been employed in, he was now so flush of money that he offer'd to lend me twenty pieces, which was the plaister he talk'd of. With many thanks and a promise to return the favour whenever

ever

ever it should be in my power, I took leave of him. And being now set up again, I purchased a horse and rode towards Oxford. In my way to that famous university, I overtook two of my old gang, from whom I learned that all the rest had taken their leave of the world through hempen casements, which occasioned a sudden fit of melancholy to seize me, imagining that at one time or other I should meet with the same fate: but soon after calling at one of the stages on the road, my companions forced me to drown all my fears in good claret, and then we proceeded to our former practices.

I HAD not been long in Oxford, before my landlord, of whom I had borrowed the ten pounds at West-Chester, happened to be in the same town, whither he was come to place his son in one of the colleges, got sight of me, and after he had seen me safely housed, fetched a couple

couple of ill-looking rascals, who hurry'd me away to prison before I had time to look about me ; however, I stay'd not there above a week before my companions let me have money enough to make up, with what I had left of my own, a sum sufficient to satisfy my creditor and pay the fees. I was bound afresh to my old comrades both by obligation and necessity, and so, going to the inn where I knew they were, to return them my thanks, and to concert measures with them for our future exploits, I found them in a publick room with two gentlemen, whom they were pumping to find out which way they travelled, and what charge they had about them, therefore I took no notice of them for the present; but tipping the wink upon one of my friends, I faunter'd about the door, and he pretending to come out to make water, told me, they found the putts had but just enough about them to defray
their

their expences, only one of them had a good watch that made his chops water. I bade him return to his place, and I warranted him we would have it before he stirred. So ordering my horse to be bridled and saddled, I soon after went again into the room where the company was, and paid my respects to them, all as a stranger; I purposely ask'd what a clock it was, one of the strange gentlemen, and both my friends immediately pulled out their watches, striving who should answer my question first. After which they interchangeably viewed and praised the workmanship, of each others watches. At last one of my friends made this proposition; Come, Sir, said he, if you please we will make an exchange upon sentence and repentance. The stranger desired him to explain himself. Why Sir, replied he, we will commit them both to the hands of any one indifferent person, and what he shall judge the difference

ference to be between them, shall be given in money by him whose watch is of least worth. This was concluded upon, but they could not at first agree into whose hands to put them; but at last one of those who were strangers to me desired I might decide the matter. I seem to decline being concerned at first, but when they insisted upon it, I took the watches into my hands, and drawing near and nearer to the door, as if for more light, then stepped out of it, and mounting my horse in a moment, was quickly out of sight; at which my companions stormed, and, with much fierceness, said, it was a fraud plotted and contrived between the strange gentlemen and me, and that they would have satisfaction, since it was the stranger that had delivered them into my hands; he protested he knew nothing of me, and urged my own friends consent to my being the judge between them. However, the other roared out and bullied

lied at such a rate, that the stranger was brought at to give them a coup'e of pieces for cheating him of his watch.

My companions soon followed me, and found me at the next stage, where we had appointed to meet, and there I gave them their watches; we called for wine and made so merry in laughing at the cull we had bit, that cash began to run low; whereupon we sent for mine host, and ask'd him if he could tell us any good news? To which, he replied, He knew of a bird that had feathers if we could but lay a trap for him. Being desired to explain himself, he said there was a physician in the town before us, who always carried fifty or sixty broad pieces of gold about him; and if, continued he, you can by some wile, get him at a distance from home, you know what you have to do. This I undertook, and soon brought it to pass, under pre-
tence

tence of having a young maiden sister, who was shortly to be married, taken very ill, at a boarding-school, where I was told the Doctor had some patients.

THESE two exploits gain'd me much credit among my companions, and much endeared me to them; however, being taken notice of in the country, we agreed it would be best for us to separate for a while; which we did accordingly, taking each a different rout. It was my luck just about the setting of the sun to come near a very handsome old house, at a distance from any town or village, and thither I resolv'd to go, thinking something might turn out to my advantage there, as indeed it did.

BEING come to the gate, I boldly knocked, and the maid coming to demand my business, I desired her to tell her master, that I was a gentleman, who had
the

the misfortune to mistake the road, and night coming on, I was loth to venture farther, and therefore desired the courtesy of a lodging. The wench having made her report to her mistress, for master she had none, the good gentlewoman came to the gate herself, and very civilly ask'd me to walk in, telling me I was welcome, and that any person who looked like a gentleman, might freely make use of her house upon such an occasion : so she conducted me into a very stately room, where she ask'd me several questions concerning my travels, and I found was desirous to know of what quality or profession I was ; I framed such answers as I thought would be most suitable to satisfy her curiosity, and procure respect to myself. The lady seemed very well pleased with my company, and prepared a very genteel supper, the better to speak my welcome. Being sat at table, I had more leisure to view her, and found

that nature had been very liberal in gracing her person, as art had done her utmost in improving her mind; in short, her wit and beauty ran in a parallel. Supper over, we chatted 'till about ten or eleven, and then she told me, that knowing I must needs be weary, for I pretended to have travelled three times as far as I really had, she would no longer keep me from my repose, thereupon calling for candles, she went with me herself to my chamber door, and there took leave of me.

Tho' I was somewhat weary, yet I could hardly sleep all night for thinking of my agreeable hostess: In the morning when I heard the family stirring, I got up, and was putting on my cloaths when the maid came into the room to enquire if I wanted any thing, and to tell me her mistress desired to know how I had rested, and that when I pleased to come down,
she

she should be glad of my company to breakfast. I returned my compliments, and let her know that I would wait on her immediately ; when I came down I found her in a genteel loose morning dress, with fresh beauties blooming in her face, and love as I thought languishing in her eyes, nor was I mistaken : O ! what would I have given for an excuse to have staid a little longer, but I could think of none, for when breakfast was over I was obliged to prepare for my departure, and the well-bred lady would accompany me into the yard, to see me take horse, which the groom was ordered to bring out, but, as he led him along we perceived him to be quite lame, she, as I afterwards understood, having ordered him to be prick'd in the foot, on purpose to prolong my stay, which was as I could have wished. Whilst I stood musing upon this accident, not well knowing what to say ; Well Sir, said she, since it has so unluckily fallen

out, that your horse is disabled, pray make use of my house, and what it affords 'till he is recovered. Inwardly rejoiced at this invitation, though I made many pretences of urgent business, and pleaded the shame I was under of being so very troublesome, I returned with her. We fell again into discourse, and among fifty other, Poetry happened to be the subject; I declaring myself a great admirer of that science, she said, if I would promise not to be too severe a critick, she would immediately shew me some essays she had made in the poetical way, when she had nothing else to do to amuse an idle hour; I begg'd of all things to be allowed that pleasure, and this gave me great hopes, for I never knew a woman that was fond of poetry, who had not a heart mighty susceptible of love, which is the very life of it. Her verses were pretty tolerable for one of that sex, but I commended them as the finest things

I had

I had ever read, and taking up a pen,
gave her the following specimen of my
knack, in the same way :

*Thrice three sisters I have read of, and no
more,*

Till your quick wit compleated half a score.

*Since you're my muse, let me persuade you
then*

To favour me, the muses favour men.

Be like them, Madam, ever soft and blithe,

*Let who will take the nine, give me the
Tithes.*

THESE lines wrought so powerfully
on her, that she could not forbear telling
me, she was much obliged to me. Then
madam, said I, you cannot cancel your
obligation 'till you have given me some
recompence, for poets always expect a re-
ward. With that, smiling, she ask'd
what would content me. I told her, the
utmost of my ambition was the continu-

ance of her favour; That you may depend on, Sir, said she, I can never refuse my favour to so deserving a man. By your favour, madam, answer'd I, I mean your love. O Sir, said she, I am in charity with all the world. I hate no man. I was pleas'd to hear her talk so merily, and know that when a fort begins to capitulate, it is half surrender'd. Since I had broke the ice, I resolv'd to push on. So, in plain English, I told her, that I had lov'd her from the first moment I set eyes upon her, and so ardently, that my constancy shall prove the reality of my affection. She desired me to leave that to the test of time, and said, that should she yield too easy a faith to my professions before she had made trial of me, she should lose that reputation she had always maintained for her prudence in the management of her affairs. Every one would accuse her for having too much credulity, and she might thereby involve herself

how it was my youth of troubles. Trial, for the reason, was that I have. And knowing that a resolute effort is the surest way of gaining a widow, I never gave over my attack till I had made her so firmly mine, that I durst not speak one word of leaving her. Two months we passed together in all the choicest delights, but in that time I was so tired out by the frequent demands she made upon my love, which the more I endeavoured to satisfy the more unreasonable I found her, that I resolved to take the first fair opportunity of quitting her, but not without a full reward for my services. She daily solicited me to marry her, which I promised from time to time, but still found some frivolous pretences to procrastinate the happy hour as she would have thought it.

ONE day, to encourage me to a speedy consummation of our loves, by marriage, she shewed me all the writings of her estate,

estate, by which I perceived she was very wealthy, and have oftentimes curs'd my unhappy stars since, that prevented my closing with such a proposal that might have settled me in the world, and saved me from the miseries I afterwards experienced. She then gave me the keys of her trunks, wherein I found money enough to have contented any one but such an unlucky dog as I was born to be : Then taking me about the neck, and almost strangling me with kisses, told me she was with child by me, and ask'd if there was not sufficient to tempt me to a performance of my promise, and bade me take what I would ; I replied, that there were many charms, without doubt, in so much riches, but nothing was to be put in competition with her own dear person, and that for the sake of that only, and not of her treasure, I was willing to sell my liberty, and would make myself her's by the strongest and most sacred

ties

ties in four days. But having well stored my pockets with gold, I was at the same time contriving, like a sot, which way I might get rid of her, and enjoy my own idle and rambling humour. In fine, I feigned some indisposition of body, and made an excuse to ride out four or five miles to take some fresh air, to which, with much reluctance, she consented. And being about to take horse, she followed me weeping bitterly, and being a prophetess, I think, as well as a poet, told me, she was sure she should never see me more. Hard-hearted man, said she, how can you thus leave one who loves you, nay, doats upon you to that excess that I do? I made many protestations that I would return in a few hours, but she seemed to give no credit to me, and with a deep sigh, bid me farewell; upon which I sat spurs to my horse, and was out of sight in an instant.

I could

I could not but condemn myself extremely for this inhuman action, but considering that there was no slavery like that of the smock, I thought I had a good deliverance.

CHAP,

C H A P. IX.

Jeremy comes up to London, and sends for a particular friend whom he could confide in, and intreats him to compound with his creditors; which he does in a short time: And in a short time after, he attempts to rob a house, is taken and committed to Newgate; describes the miseries of an imprisoned state, and relates the manner of making his escape.

THE next day I rode towards London, and about twilight took up my quarters in the suburbs: The day following I sent for a friend whom I could put confidence in, and prevailed with him to endeavour to bring my creditors into a composition. I gave him commission to proceed so far and no farther, which was to offer them half a crown in
the

the pound. After I had given him a list of their names and places of abode, he went to every one of them particularly, and treated with them so cunningly, that he brought them all into a compliance, and got them to subscribe a paper, promising to give me a general discharge upon payment of the money, which was done accordingly. But when my creditors, a while after, saw me walking in the streets in a rich dress, with an air and gesture suitable to it, they were ready to hang themselves for giving me that liberty, especially when they found in what a haughty and supercilious manner I saluted them. and I must needs say I took great delight in thus mortifying some of the rogues, who had either imposed upon me, or otherwise used me ill when they had me in their power. Being now able to go about at my pleasure without fear or molestation, I kept such debauched company, that the remaining part of my money

money grew low, and in a very short time was all spent; all my drunken companions now shunn'd me, and having nothing left but my cloaths, I could not tell what to do to support myself, but at last necessity made me condescend to make an enquiry after the strumpet my wife; but her nearest relations could give me no account of her. I wander'd up and down, employing my utmost diligence to find her out, thinking in the great distress I was, might possibly have something to relieve my present necessities. Knowing her wanton inclinations, and finding she had eloped from all her relations, I did not at all doubt but she had thrown herself upon the publick. Therefore I went to Ratcliff-Highway, and paid a visit to Damaris, the metropolitan bawd of those parts, and enquired for a gentlewoman of such a make and complexion, it would have been to little purpose, I knew, to mention her name, be-

cause traders in that way change their names as often as their cloaths, or their lodgings; but this cart load of foul flesh could give me no account of her; so I went all along to the cross, where I saw many whores standing at doors, and had several invitations to come in, but I had no money to entertain them, and if I had there were none that would have pleased my palate; for by their continual traffick with seamen's breeches, they all smelt so strongly of tarpawlins and stinking cod, that there was no coming near them. From Ratcliff I came to Fleet-yard, but here the ladies were so plaistered with paint, and botched over with patches, that had I seen her 'tis very likely I should not have known her. I went next to Newtener's Lane, and Dog-and Bitch-Yard, but the pox it seems, had not yet fitted her for those places. From hence I went to Whetstone's Park, where I saw my madam standing at a door, but her frequent

frequent trading, and the many shots she had received between wind and water in the service, had from a tight vessel, made her little better than a shatter'd hulk. Hail-her from whence she came, I boarded her and made her lawful prize; but rummaged not her hold, fearing she might be a fire-ship. The sight and knowledge of me made her shed a few crocodile tears, which I took little notice of, knowing them, in that sex, to be only the effect of a moist brain, and always at command. In we went together, where we had, according to the custom of the house, pint black pots, filled with ale, or rather small beer, at twopence each, and quarters of aque vite, half filled for sixpence, with biscuits thrown down and broken, and were to be paid for, tho' not a bit was eaten. One of the plyers being gone down stairs to draw some more drink, my wife begged me not to discover who I was for the present, and

that I would comply with the cheating customs of the house, and she would willingly pay all. I had hardly sinoaked two whiffs of Tobacco, before a fellow came in, swearing, Damme, why do you stay with this rascal and leave me thus you inconstant quean? I have spent my estate on you, and must you now grow weary of me, and with that drew his knife, making a proffer to cut her nose off; I was so amazed at what I heard, and so irritated by passion, that I knew not which of them to be revenged on first; Sir, said I, I have been longer acquainted with her than you, and my justly claim a better title, and more priviledge, but as you have affronted me, so I shall require satisfaction instantly, nor referring our difference to be decided by the field; whereupon, I drew my knife also, and seized on his nose, which I intended to have divorc'd from his face, but was prevented, for it dropt off into my hand.

This

This accident so astonished me, and with-
all being much affrighted at the sight of
his death's head, I durst not meddle with
him any further, least handling any other
member it should have dropt off in the
same manner; he made a blow at me,
but instead of striking me, I expected his
fist would have flown from his body into
my face; he kick'd at me, but that leg
being up, the other was incapable of sup-
porting his body, and so he fell down.

THE old bawd, hearing the distur-
bance, ran to us as fast as the vast bulk of
her body would give her leave, whose pace
was not much swifter than a snail in full
career. Sirrah, sirrah, said she, come
you hither to breed quarrels, and abuse
civil gentlemen, and, it may be, build a
sconce too? Get you out of my house,
you villian, or I'll scald you out. By this
time the bully of the place came to their
assistance, and so they all join'd together

to shove the poor fellow out of doors; and notwithstanding he had frequented the house two or three years constantly, and spent all he was worth in the world in it, yet they neither pitied, nor relieved him as a maimed soldier, who had lost a member, or perhaps two in their service. Having discharged my reckoning, I went to a place my wife appointed, and there meeting her again, where we were at liberty to talk freely, I waved all discourse but what tended to my main business, which was to contrive some way how, by her help, I might get a livelyhood. At last we resolved to take a house, and live together. I thought it was as good to be a pimp to my own wife as to another, and better than to sponge upon my acquaintance, for a meals meat; besides I had an example of my betters before me to keep me in countenance, some who had raised themselves to be justices of the peace and

Com-

Commissioners in offices by the very same thing.

WHAT we had determined on, we soon put in execution, the money my rib had acquired as a journey-woman in the trade, was now laid out in proper utensils to set up for ourselves, such as beds, chairs, stools, linnen, platters, quartern pots, aqua mirabilis, &c. Part of our goods we had from a tallyman, or broker, who was to receive twelve pence in the pound, weekly, 'till his debt was paid, and to speak the truth, we found him and his servants excellent customers, who, for a particular favour, would cut off a notch or sometimes two from the tally. Our stock being but small, my wife was forced to act the parts of both bawd and whore, but our trade soon-increasing, she watch'd the waggons, and would sometimes bring home some fine fresh ware, which we made a very good penny of,
by

by selling the first of them three or four times over, tho' I generally gathered their rose-buds myself the first night they came into the house, least the infectious air of the place might have tainted them in a day or two more. Two of these young jades whom my wife took from the Yorkshire carrier's, were the most tractable and docile creatures I ever met with in my life : In a month's time they knew their trade so perfectly well, that they could cant fluently, wheedle most cunningly, lye confoundedly, swear desperately, pick pockets dexterously, dissemble imperceptibly, drink everlastingly, whore insatiately, and brazen all out most audaciously. Being so well set up, and in so flourishing a way, I began again to keep company, and fell into some of my old acquaintance, viz. rogues and sharpers, from whom I was never asunder either at home or abroad. To relate all the tricks we committed in half a year, would be half a
years

years work ; therefore to be short, we were grown so notorious, and so generally pointed at by all our neighbours, that at last my wife and her two maids of dishonour, were apprehended by the marshal's-men, and carried to bridewel, and I, myself, narrowly escaped by a precipitate flight.

THE next day I boldly went to visit them, and thought their beating hemp became them mighty well, and I must do them the justice to say, that there had never been three persons who better deserved the employment they were preferred to. Looking sometimes at my wife, and sometimes at the hemp, a melancholick thought came into my head, which gave me some chagreen, for the present, for I fancy'd that the hemp she was then beating, might, by the fatal sisters, be twisted into that thread, which was to put a period to my life,

THE

THE time of visiting them fell out on the day of correction, therefore I resolved to stay and see them well lash'd as I hoped. My wife being manacled, and the whip ready to embrace her soft waist. Hold, cry'd I; my wife no doubt thought I was going to intercede for her, but addressing myself to the masters of bridewells, " May it please your worships, said I, this woman now under correction, is the most impudent, brazen face'd, whore in the whole town; I have known her a long time, ever since, and a short while before she ruined her husband, a very honest man indeed, who had the good word of all his neighbours; but this abandoned strumpet could not be contented without her stallion, as if she had been the wife of an alderman; the rascal whom she chose to do her dirty business, tho' but a foot soldier, was maintained like a Colonel, out of what she purloined from the good man her husband, which was the

utter

utter destruction; she has brought several others to poverty, and is so far from repenting of what she has done, that she glories in it; wherefore, I beseech you, worships, for my friend's sake, the honest man her husband, and for the good of her own soul, add one half dozen stripes to the number intended, and let them be laid home:" I had no sooner ended my speech but I vanished. Just as I was going out of the gate, I met with two of my sharpening friends, whom the devil, I think, had sent to way-lay me, they were going it seems, to see some of their doxies, who had that day been committed; being overjoy'd to meet me so accidentally, they would needs have me go to the tavern with them; over a glass of wine we consulted about divers matters, no goodness to be sure; the result whereof was, that I should go to a particular house, and try if by any means, I could get into it unperceived, and hide myself, in order to
my

my opening the door for them about twelve o'clock.

ACCORDING to the time agreed on, I went, and with much facility conveyed myself into a lower room, wherein was a bed, under which I crept, being confident I might lye there securely 'till all the house was retired to take their rest. After I had lain about two hours on the ground, there came into this room, a servant, I peeped out, and by the light of his candle, saw that which I thought would have distracted me with fear, it was the laying the cloth, by which I understood the master of the house intended to sup there suddenly; after this the meat was brought in and served to the table, then came five or six persons, who passing divers compliments took their seats, and had not there been at that time some small prattling children, running up and down and making a noise, the fright their approach

proach had put me in, would certainly have betrayed me, for my knees knocked together like mill-clappers. My cruel stars had so ordered it, that there was a small dog and a cat in the room, both dearly beloved by their mistress, who would be continually flinging down something or other, which they continually quarrel'd about, as jealous and envious upon the distribution of her favours; at length she threw down a small bit, which the cat, being nimblest, got, and ran with it under the bed, the dog ran after her snarling, endeavouring to affright her, that she might forsake the purchase. The dog approaching, and too much intrenching upon her right, she put him in mind of his duty, by a scratch with her claw, which so angered him, that he made a furious assault upon puss, who defended herself as well as she could, but at length they closed, and grappling together, made a most hideous noise: The spot in

which they fought this combat, was underneath the bed, upon my buttocks; the servant that attended being over hasty to quell the noise, by parting the fray, snatched up the fire-shovel and throws it underneath the bed; had it hit my nose with the edge as it did my breach, with the handle, I should have it pared off even with my face. The cat instantly provides for her safety by flight; but the dog still remained behind grumbling, and now and then barking with such eagerness, that he became very offensive to the whole company: wherefore the servant was commanded to drag him forth, which he did beating him and throwing him out of doors. In the mean time I was left in such a condition as if I had been breathing my last. As soon as the door was opened the dog came again underneath the bed with more fury than before; this second time he did my business, or as they vulgarly say, he made me do my business, for running

ning fiercely on me, he had bit me by the nose, but that I snatched away my head from him, but not observing the bed post behind, I thought I had dashed my brains out against it. Fear also having bereft me of my retentive faculty, I let fly at one, and the same time, which made so strange a noise together, that they all rose from the table to see what was the matter; their noses quickly informed them of some part, for the room was presently strongly scented, looking under the bed, they could see poor Jerry giving up the ghost, as dying persons usually evacuate before their departure; they pulled me forth, and quickly revived me by rough handling me, and then beat me 'till I was e'en dead again. Being taken in the present offence, I could expect no other but to be subject to the rigour of their vengeance, I could make no plea sufficient to stay their fury, or satisfy their revenge; having fetch'd a constable, I

was carried before a Justice of Peace, who with little examination caused my mittimus to be made, and so I was sent to Newgate. I was no sooner there, and under lock and key, but fetters confin'd my legs from straggling, and bracelets were clapt upon my arms. The rogues came all flocking about me, for their garb, which I gave them, some of the genteeler sort added more to it, so that we had abundance of drink; but never did I hear so confused a din of damme and sink me; others singing so loud, (alias roaring) that I thought myself in hell, and that these were damned souls that roared thro' extremity of torments. I thought none had been so wicked as myself, 'till I came among these hell hounds; not a word came from any of their mouths, but what was seconded with an oath, cursing their bad stars, and blaspheming; the misery of this or any other prison is sufficiently represented, if by nothing else
but

but the want of liberty, that rich inheritance of living souls, as it is the greatest of enjoyments next to that imperial gem of health, so that want thereof, next to sickness, must needs be of all other the most bitter. Since then to be confined to the confines of a goal, is to be in part unman'd, intomb'd alive, what and how great is that wretchedness that is occasioned not only by a want of liberty, but by a continual dread of shameful death. The terror of this place, full of torture, is so exasperated by the imagination of a noble mind, that hell itself cannot contain more exquisite woes and pains, a continuance whereof were sufficient to punish all offences, if the law dispensed with that debt due to justice, the life of the offender. Your companions are none but licentious wretches, souls which daily surround you, with their loathsome persons, overspread with scabs and lice. Here sighing is our air, our comfort

coldness, our food despair, our musick rattling of chains, our recreation the destruction of vermin, lastly, our expectations death and damnation. The keeper, with the grim aspect of his stern countenance, makes us tremble with fear of a new martyrdom, whilst the insulting rascal on the tiptoes of his pride, needs not screw his ill-favoured face to a frown, for he knows not how to look otherwise, which so dejects the spirits of poor imprisoned slaves, that the contrition of their looks seem to implore his smiles, whose flinty heart having renounced all pity and remorse, casts a defiance on their lamentable complaints. I might go much farther, but am hastening to get out of this miserable and soul excruciating prison.

ONE day after I had exonerated nature, I chanced to view the seat, and found it was no difficult matter to go
down

down the vault by the help of a rope. A trusty friend coming to see me, I told him what I had observed, and what I wanted; so about three days before the Sessions, he brought me rope enough to have hanged us all; this being new rope put me again in mind of my wife, but now I was in hopes the hemp she had been beating was to save me. There were two of the prisoners with me, for whom I had a more than ordinary respect, on account of their great abilities in that way of business, and to them I communicated my design, which we all three determined immediately to put in execution. First I went down, but I could have wish'd myself up again, for I was up to the neck, and knew not but that I might be deeper, but to my great comfort I found to the contrary; the rest descended after me, with the like good success.

BEING

BEING got thro' all this nastiness and peril, to an house where we knew ourselves safe, we were quickly freed from our irons, and had places enough to send to for change of apparel, as rich or as beggarly as we pleased. Having lain in lavender about a fortnight in this house, not only to sweeten us, but that the rumour of our escape, and the search that was making for us might be over. In the mean time we consulted how we might disguise ourselves; my own hair being of a flaxen colour, I got me a cole black peruke, and a small beard suitable, with whiskers in the Spanish fashion. It would be no great trouble I thought to black my eye-brows every morning; but to see how effectual my disguise was, clapping a black patch over my left eye, I came strutting into the room where my companions were busy, and speaking to them in a tone they were not acquainted with, I asked them what they were doing

ing, their chops moved incessantly, but the devil a word could I hear; they had got a palsy in their jaws, by their sudden surprize: To observe the several monkey-faces and baboon postures they made use of, could not but have contracted laughter from the severest cynick. Why do not ye answer me, and that quickly, ye sneaking dumb rascals, said I, looking most piteously one on the other, expecting who should speak first; at last said one of them, We mean no harm, Sir, we are only preparing some things for a mask, which will shortly be presented to the citizens, and we are persons therein concerned. I could not hold longer, but burst forth into an excessive laughter, by which they understood their mistake, not without shame enough to think that the apprehensions of danger so slightly grounded should so terrify them, being struck dumb, and almost dead with a pannick fear. To be brief, we very well liked
the

the manner of our metamorphoses, and having borrowed some money as the necessary tools of our intended trade, we adventured abroad.

THE first mouth we pick'd up was in the Long-Walk, by Christ-Church, upon the account of a wager; there came towards us a young man, who, by his garb, seemed to be a merchant's man, he afterward^s proved so, and his cashier. I stept to him, and said, Sir, if it will not be troublesome to you, I beseech you to resolve me one question: This gentleman hath laid an angel with me, and refer'd the decision thereof to the next that came this way, whether the next adjacent hospital be Saint Thomas's, or Saint Bartholomew's. Said the young man, I can assure you it is Saint Bartholomew's. Why then friend, said I, you have lost; Sir, will you be pleased, if it may not be any great hindrance to your present affairs,

fairs, to accompany us to the next tavern, and participate of the losings, for I scorn to pocket any thing. He condescended, and so we went together. We discovered nothing of our intention, 'till after the sixth pint, and then my friend, as if by chance, found a pack of cards in a corner of the window, which he himself had lain there before. Here is a pack of cards, said he, come, to pass away the time, let us play for a pint or so, I very readily took up my friend. Putt was the game we went to, and I won two or three pints, every now and then drinking to the stranger, so that now he began to be warm'd, and seem'd to take delight in our play, looking over my hand, and sometimes prompting me to see him when he putt me. At last my friend play'd the high-game, as it is called among Artists; that is, he gave me two trays and an ace, and reserved to himself two trays and a duce. My antagonist putt to me, I pre-
 tended

tended I knew not what to do, shewed my game to the stranger, who still look'd over my shoulder, he jogg'd me on the elbow, I still delay'd: Come, Sir, said my opponent, what will you do? I will hold you five pounds on these very cards in my hand. I received the second jogg: Will you go my halves, Sir, said I? He answered me that he would; but alas? we lost, it could be no otherwise. This so animated the stranger, that he persuaded me to play again, and said, he would go my halves in every stake. Sometimes it was so ordered, that I won; but in the end I lost forty pounds, my cully being to pay half. He would now give over, being much perplexed, that he should thus lose his master's money; but that he might forget the condition he was in, we drank round some merry healths, such as never fail to tickle the fancies of young fellows. I now thought it high time to provoke him again to let
down

down his milk, by some new trick or stratagem.

So we fell to preaching the parson, a trick on the cards, which hath deceived the most curious eye, and the wariest of men, with which we gain'd from our young merchant, the major part of his money. Lastly, to the intent, we might without any farther delays, give him an acquittance for the rest, we drew out some other implements, viz. dice, fix'd for our purpose, as high-fullums, which seldom run any other chance than four, five, or six. Low-fullums, which ran, one, two, and three, &c. By these means we sent him home pennyless, and heartless, whilst we drank healths to the confusion of sorrow, and the next day we heard the unfortunate young man had hang'd himself.

UPON the division we made of our plunder, we found that each man's share amounted to somewhat better than forty pounds; greatly rejoiced at our first success, we resolved to return thanks in some private meeting-house, where we might have a sifter to assist our devotion. The devil, in all societies, never wants his factor, or one to solicit his business; I had no sooner intimated my desires, but presently one of my rope brokers gave me information of a place fit for that purpose, the like of which was no where else to be found; my friends had each of them their peculiar marts to go to, so I went solus to explore the wonders they related of this new fashion'd brothel. They advised me when I came to the door, to say I was directed thither to enquire for lodgings: At first I verily thought myself imposed on by these rogues, or that I had mistaken the house, when I saw a porter standing

standing at the door with a staff tipped with silver. To undeceive myself, I confidently, yet civilly ask'd, whether there was any lodgings to be let there? Yes, Sir, said the porter, which you may view if you will give yourself the trouble to walk in. I had no sooner entered the door, but I was met by a grave matron, who had much the appearance of a gentlewoman; madam, said I, I am informed you have lodgings to lett; I have so, Sir, said she, and immediately ask'd me to walk into her parlour, which was elegantly furnished; this I guess'd was only to take a stricter view of my garb and person, and ask me some particular questions by which she might judge how my pockets were lined; being well satisfied, she shewed me up stairs, into a large handsome room, hung with tapestry, and adorned with several pictures, which I supposed, at that time, were taken from the most celebrated beauties of the past

and present age. A servant immediately brought us a bottle of wine, without any order given, that I could perceive, a glass out of which the old gentlewoman drank to me, to bid me welcome. Some time after observing me to look on the pictures in the room, those pieces I am told, Sir, said she, are not ill painted, but pray which do you think the most beautiful woman amongst them? Whereupon pointing to one of them, I said that was in my opinion the most exquisite beauty I ever saw, wishing myself no greater happiness, than to have, if it was possible, a view of the lady it represented: And that, said she, is not possible, if you can have the faith to believe your own eyes, and thereupon desiring me to tarry awhile, she withdrew leaving me big with expectation; when all on a sudden I heard the rustling of silks, and casting my eyes towards the door, I beheld entring one of the fairest creatures, that methought I had

I had ever seen in all the progress of my life, at which amazed, I could scarcely believe there was so much perfection in any one mortal, so that with profound reverence, I stood admiring, or rather adoring her person, 'till having seated herself, she in a familiar strain required me to set down by her : At which re-assuming my former flock of confidence, I could at length discourse with her upon divers matters ; she demanded if I knew the custom of the house ; to which I answered I was altogether a stranger : then she told me, I might call for what wine I pleased, not exceeding four bottles, and have any little thing that was in season for supper, and if I staid not all night, might have a mistress too into the bargain, all for the expence of forty shillings ; but if I had a mind to lye there the whole night, the custom was to deposit ten pieces, which was to be laid under the lady's pillow I should chuse to

carefs, and every time I did so, I was at liberty to take a piece back again; and if I could in this manner withdrew my whole stake, I should be welcome to whatever I had had without expending one penny, but what I might be generously pleased to give among the servants. I was stark mad to be at it, and so impatient, that I presently told out ten pieces, and the next morning found I had seven of them again, thinking three pounds was never better spent than the other. While in bed with my charmer, I was informed what sort of company used the house, some whereof I understood where ladies of no mean quality, who came there to satisfy what was impossible, their insatiable lust, and therefore contrived that custom of depositing ten pieces, thereby to incite such as were confident of themselves to exert their utmost abilities for the sake of gain; and to the intent that they might not be discovered

discovered by their husbands or acquaintance, they had peep holes, where they might see who was to encounter with them, and they were sure they could not be very mean persons from the sum they were obliged to deposite; if the gentleman was unknown, the lady would boldly make her appearance; if she had any knowledge of him, she took care to conceal herself. Thus the ladies enjoy'd what they most desired, and ran no hazard in their reputations; while the men paid dear for their pleasures, and more with their brawny backs than their purses.

CHAP.

C H A P X.

Jeremy and his two companions going on the pad; he is taken, and committed again to Newgate, &c.

HAVING left my beauteous mistress, my business was now to find out my comrades; which I did in a very short time, and we soon concluded to purchase horses, and travel in search of adventures. We rode about fourteen miles, and then baited at a place, where the hostler knowing me, and what designs I had been formerly engaged in, and imagining I was still steering the same course, he whispered me in the ear, that he had a desire to speak with me; so taking an opportunity, under pretence of looking to my horse, he inform'd, me that there were three men drinking in the house, who, the next morning, were to travel such a road, and that they had a great charge

charge with them. I thanked him, bidding him come to my chamber at night, when I would discourse farther with him, which he did accordingly, and there gave me an account of all he knew about them, and told me whereabouts I might be sure to meet with them in a safe place. I made the rogue drink for his information, and promised him a handsome reward, if we met with success. In the morning, very early, my companions and I called for our horses, and rode to the place through which the three travellers were to pass. We soon discerned them at a distance, and by that time we made ourselves ready they were at hand; just at the bottom of a little hill we bid them stand; they ask'd us to what intent? We told them we were younger brothers, and wanted money, and therefore must borrow some of them. With that they all, in an instant, drew their swords, but not unprovided with pocket pistols, we fired at them,

and

and they again at us : we were all equally matched, but the second shot killed my horse, and a fourth bereaved one of my comforts of life, the third rogue ran away. Being in a labyrinth of perplexity, I thought it the best way to sell my life at as dear a rate as I could, knowing very well that if I was taken I should be hanged ; I fought with my sword as long as I could stand upon my legs, wounding both them and their horses, but at last one of them unhappily ran me through the sword-hand, and thereupon I was disarm'd, taken, and carried before the next justice of peace, by whom I was committed to safe custody, and could not now expect any thing but death ; but the next news I heard, was, that I must be removed to Newgate, there being other things to be laid to my charge ; I was mounted again in order to my removal, but very ill-hors'd, being straitly bound and pinion'd. My greatest grief when I
came

came to London, was to hear the various judgments pass upon me by the good women, some crying it was great pity so handsome a young man should come to the gallows so soon; others said, I warrant he well deserves it, he has tyburn in his face. When the keeper saw me, he leaped for joy, O! Sir, said he, are you come again? We will take care that you shall not be any more annoyed by the offensive smells of the vault: so without more ceremony, laid as much iron on me as there is in a smith's shop, and confin'd me close prisoner to the dungeon.

BEING in this terrestrial hell, where darkness and despair surrounded me, my conscience started out of her dead sleep, and presently demanded of me a severe account of what I had done. My guilt was such I had not a word to speak for myself, but wished it were possible to be divested of my humanity, and that my soul might

might die with my body, the thoughts of the eternal torments that that was likely to endure, almost distracted me. Already I thought I heard the howling and shrieks of the damned, and all hell was opened to my view. The boundless lakes of ever-burning brimstone, and the tortures prepared for those, who cannot, for a few minutes, as this life may be called, when compared with eternity, refrain from offending the supreme being, who is willing to make us happy here and hereafter, if we obey his will, which is certainly the best guide to our actions. Reflecting next on the infinite mercy of the Almighty, and his promise to those who sincerely repent, I began a little to appease my conscience by assuring myself I was sufficiently convinced of my errors, and taking a firm resolution, to lead a new life, if I should have the good fortune once more to escape from the wretched place I was in ; but alas ! there
were

were little hopes of that, for the sessions coming on, I was brought to the Old-Bailey, try'd, and condemned to be hang'd: Therefore returned after sentence to the place from whence I came with a sad and dejected heart. I could not now give any proofs of my repentance by leading a new life, as I had promised, because I had no time to live, but in my few remaining hours, as I thought they would be, that I might somewhat repair the injury I had done my countrymen, I wrote a full discovery of all the practices of highwaymen, their manner of robbing; and gave instructions how travellers might best secure themselves, and avoid them.

I was now visited by a very worthy divine, who laid before me the danger I was in, without the interposition of an extraordinary mercy everlastingly to perish: And having made me abundantly

VOL. II.

L

sensible

sensible of my deplorable state, which he perceived by the rivers of tears that flowed from my eyes, and the deep sighs that seem to rend and break my stoney heart asunder, he began to enquire into the actions of my life, and was amazed upon the recital, that one man could claim a share in so many villanies; however, before he left me, he gave me such cordial advice as wrought wonderful effects upon me, and brought me into such a state of contrition, that from saturday night, when he left me, 'till monday morning, the time appointed for my execution, I neither eat nor slept, spending the whole time in fervent prayers, and imploring mercy on my soul. On sunday I heard my funeral sermon, and at midnight my passing bell, every toll of which methought carried my soul one degree higher, well hoping, by the calmness of my mind, that my unfeign'd sorrow would prevail with the God of all mercies

cies to have compassion on me. Whilst I was every minute expecting to have notice that the cart was ready to receive me, a friend, who had not visited me during my imprisonment, brought me word that I was reprieved, and that the king, at the intercession of one of the gentlemen I had set upon, was most graciously pleased to change my sentence of death, into that of banishment for seven years. It was sometime before I could be prevailed upon to believe it, and when I was assured it was true, I was quite indifferent, being, as I thought, fully prepared to die, and not doubting but that I had made my peace with heaven.

THE reprieve I had just obtained, I afterwards found was much owing to the favour of a person of quality, who spoke in my behalf, for a reason, which if the king had not been the most gracious prince upon earth, and both himself and the

noble duke, who stood my friend, the greatest lovers of wit and humour, would but have hastened my execution : For in short I had robb'd the nobleman, who was his grace the duke of Buckingham, and made his majesty himself confederate with me. The manner was this.

I AND one of my comrades went one day to Whitehall, dressed in very rich suits, and coming into the presence, we found his majesty and the duke of Buckingham playing at picquet, a great many noblemen and gentlemen stand round them: I got close to the duke's elbow, and, knowing something of the game, every now and then put in a word, which I found not disagreeable to his grace, and as I was dressed as well as any nobleman there, altho' he knew me not, he would frequently speak to me and shew me his cards, this, without doubt, made the king himself, and any body else that observed-

served us, imagine we were intimately acquainted.

THE duke had an extreme handsome purse, with about an hundred pieces in it, laying on his right hand, out of which he took the gold to set up his game, or pay his majesty when he lost. This purse was a strong temptation to me, and I was not at the expence of coming to court merely to satisfy curiosity, but to follow my vocation also; and then a thought came into my head how I might make myself master of this bewitching purse. I watched my opportunity 'till it was his majesty's turn to deal, when the duke turning aside to his left hand to speak to some gentlemen there, I took up the purse that was at his right, making a sign, at the same time to the king, as if I did it only to surprize him. His majesty returned the sign, as well pleased with the joke. Upon which I clapp'd the purse in

my pocket, and then made another sign that I would step behind some of the company to hide myself. The king could not forbear smiling; but when I got from the table I marched clear off, as fast as I could.

My friend, as he had not the same reason for decamping, stay'd some time after me, and when we met the same night, at our usual place of rendezvous, he told me what passed about the purse, when I was gone.

THE noble duke having play'd his hand out. began to look for his gold to set up the game, but not finding it upon the table, looked under it, then in his pockets, now on one side, then on the other; at last looking at the king, did your majesty see my purse, said he? You don't imagine I have your purse, reply'd the king, I hope. At length the duke
growing

growing very uneasy; and the king, who had too much good-nature to let him remain long in that condition if he could help it, told him, his friend had taken it in jest; Nay, said his grace, if he has taken it at all it must be in earnest, for I never saw him in my life before.

THIS witty duke, it is very well known, had not the greatest passion for money, so notwithstanding his loss, he joined heartily in laughing at the impudence of the fellow who took it, and who, as he was pleased to compliment me, he said, had such an address and appearance, that it was pity I should not have a better employment than that of picking pockets. But how extremely generous was it, not only to forgive my robbing him, but afterwards to intercede for my pardon, not as he said, to encourage me for my thefts, but that as he was in hopes I should make a proper use of his majesty's goodness,

goodness, and exert the talents I was master of, in some way that might make amends for my past errors.

WITH a very grateful heart for this nobleman's goodness in asking, and for my gracious sovereign in granting me, my life, tho' on the hard conditions of immediately banishing myself out of the kingdom for seven years, I went on board a ship, and set sail from the downs in the month of August, 1670. but we were scarce out of sight of land, before a horrid darkness o'erspread the heavens, and thick clouds began to muster like armies for battle, the winds instantly grew into a storm, and the sea into mountains of waves, whilst we reeled from side to side, and all hands were too few to keep the ship in order, and altho' we pumped incessantly, the waters prevailed in our hold, and every man, in whose face appeared the visible apprehensions of death, began

began to cry for mercy, especially when they were informed that a leak was sprung in the ship, that it was impossible to stop.

I now began to think myself the Jonah in the ship, and that this punishment happened to the rest for my sins. Every man endeavouring to shift for himself, not to be behind hand, I leaped off the deck, thinking to have reach'd the boat that was flung out, but came short; yet being a good swimmer, I got at last into it, but not without much difficulty, and was no sooner in, but another leap'd upon me, and then another, 'till the boat was as full as ever it could bear, when we were forced, for self-preservation, to put off, and leave a great number behind us, and committed ourselves to the mercy of the sea, which play'd with us like a tennis ball, tossing our boat from one wave to another, sometimes mounting up, as if
would

would wash us in the clouds, then sink down again as if it would bury us in the sands. I very much feared the old proverb was inverted, and that, not born to be hanged, I should certainly be drown'd; but when we all thought ourselves in the very jaws of death, and were without any manner of hope, the wind tacked about, and brought back a ship that had over-run us: This was unquestionably *digitus dei*. The ship made towards us, and we as much as was in our power towards her; but the wind blew hard, and the intulging sea, that has no pity, rose high upon us, so that we were forced to lade the water out of the boat with our hats. It was my chance to sit on the weather side; fain would I have exchanged my place, but such compliments are useless in a storm, and had I been a much better man, nobody would have rose to have given me his place.

We

WE now began to despair again, for, with all our endeavours we could not reach the ship, nor she us, although she hung on the lee to retard her course. Thus our pregnant hopes brought forth nothing but wind and water, for the ship rode on furiously before the wind, and we came after in pursuit of her, as slowly as if a hedge-hog had been running against a race-horse : so that we who were just before flattered with great assurance of safety, were now confounded with the certainty of perishing. In my opinion, it is better to have no hopes at all, than be disappointed in them, and the punishment of Tantalus is doubted by touching what he cannot taste. That mariner who seeing a fatal necessity for it, is contented to die in a tempest, would be exceedingly troubled to perish in a haven. In this very condition we were, having a ship near us, but could not board her for stress of weather, so that ruin attended us,

though

though all the while we look'd safety in the face. Now did it grow dark, whereby we could not see which way to row, though this was an evil in its own nature, yet accidentally it became our benefit, for not seeing our danger we understood it not, but redoubling our strength, we brake through the waves, and by the assistance of a light which was in the ship, we directed our course truly, and now did we find we were very near her. As soon as we touched her on the lee-side, the seamen, with the rest in the boat, being more dexterous in the art of climbing than myself, never regarding their exil'd prisoner, whom they ought to have taken charge of, got all up into the ship in a moment, leaving me alone in the boat. By good hap they threw me out a rope, which once had like to deprive me of my life, but was now the preserving of it, which I held fast to keep the boat from going off, and myself from sinking with it,

it, for it was half full of water, and the waves dash'd it so violently against the ship side, that every stroke brought me down, and I was like to be drown'd in the boat. It was enough to vex any man to be in such a condition, and was like that of having swam safely over a large river, and then being drown'd in a bowl-dish. But at last I got on board, and being once more secure within the strong wooden walls, my fears and cares vanished, for as I had nothing but life to lose, and that being saved, I thought I ought to bless God, rather than repine as others did, who made great lamentations for what had perished in the sea, which in my opinion was as ungrateful as it would have been for a man, who was raised from the dead, to complain that his winding-sheet had received some damage in the grave.

THE ship, into which we were now got, was bound for the Canaries, the
 VOL. II. M wind

wind blowing very fair for that coast. The second night after our deliverance, about ten o'clock, having set our watch, we laid ourselves down to rest, with the thoughts of much safety and security; but it was otherwise decreed, for about one o'clock, we were forced to use all hands aloft, a most terrible storm beginning to arise, and the wind blew so furiously, that before morning we lost our bow sprit and mizen; we durst not bear the least sail, but let the ship drive whether the wind and waves pleased, and before the next night we could not endure our remaining masts standing, but were necessitated to cut them from the board. Thus we were tumbled up and down for four days and as many nights, contending with the waves in a pitch'd battle, not knowing where we were, 'till our ship struck so violently against a rock, that the horrid noise thereof would have even made a dead man startle; to which add
the

the hideous cries of the seamen, bearing a part with the whistling winds, and roaring sea, a'l which together seemed to me to be the truest representation of the day of Judgment. The ship stuck so long between two rocks, that we had all time enough to leap out, the only means left us for safety.

A r day-break we found ourselves but at a little distance from the shore, and the sea ebbing, left the sands almost dry, so getting firm footing, we adventured over them, and wandering about, at last came to a small house, the master whereof was standing at the door, we addressed ourselves to him in English, but he answered in Spanish, a language none of us understood; whereupon, with as much Latin as I could muster up, I made him acquainted with our misfortunes; which not only made him pity us, but drew tears from his eyes, promising to supply

us with the best entertainment he had, which consisted for the most part of *Ola de Podrida*, being abundance of herbs minced and boil'd together, with a small quantity of meat, served in the same kind; yet we, at that time, thought it luxurious eating, and expressed a great many thanks, especially when he brought us a flask of wine, which refreshed our weary and weather-beaten spirits. When we had continued here a day and a night, we desired to take our leaves, that we might pass to the next port, there, if possible, to find a passage for England: But I, who feared to be hanged if taken, upon my former sentence, for returning before the expiration of my limited time, was not so forward as the rest, which unwillingness he perceiving, and being taken with my conversation, he told me, if I would be content to stay with him, he would provide me a place in a ship under him to sail to the East-Indies: And
 now

now all the world being my home but England I cared not much whither I went, and being greatly desirous to see a country of which I had heard so much, I told him, I should be ungrateful should I refuse his kind offer, and therefore I was at his service to be ruled by him, I had not long stayed at his house, but word was brought him, that the ship was ready, having received on board her full cargo; so that passing over land to Lisbon, the port where she lay, we went on board, and the next day set sail, weathering in a short time a great storm, which made me suspect, that the sea was unwilling to bear a person so notoriously wicked as myself, though the proverb runs contrary, viz. The sea and the gallows refuse none. Being again at sea, I took heart, yet the storm no sooner ceased, but we discovered three vessels, which proved to be turkish men of war, we no sooner 'spy'd their prey, but they

chased us, and brought us up, we being deep laden, and they light and nimble; however, we fought them three hours with great courage; but finding our ship miserably rent, and a great many men killed and disabled, we thought it time to surrender, and indeed had we delay'd it, they would have boarded us, for there remained not ten able men to defend the ship. Being in the power of the infidels, they clapped us under the hatches, and suffered us to see no light, 'till we landed at Algiers, and there having lain in a dark and noisome place, with irons on our legs and hands, 'till the day of sale for slaves, we were, with guards to keep us from starting, led into the market-place, where after one had felt my limbs, that they were well jointed, as also seen my mouth, to see if I had good grinders, I was bought by a jew, who carried me home, and set me a grinding in a hand-mill, feeding me with hard biskit, and

now

now and then rice pottage, water being for the most part my drink, yet if I perform'd not my task, my cruel task-master would not fail to remember my backside, with a twisted whalebone 'till the blood had trickled from my shoulders. And now having no hopes of release from this bondage, my bed being only straw or a hard mat, I began to repent that I had accepted my reprieve, and wished that I had died by the hand of the executioner, where my pain would have been short, rather than to have come into this intolerable slavery, of which I could expect no end but death, which made me plot for my escape, but finding it impossible, seeing I had eyes continually upon me, and understanding that the coast was watched, and myself every night locked up close prisoner, however, knowing my tyrant to be very covetous, and if he could have made as much of me dead, as living, he had not cared how soon

soon I would have hanged myself, or cut my throat, or perhaps he would have done it for me. I pretended, as indeed how could I do otherwise, much discontent, looking often very wildly, protesting I would rather die a thousand deaths, than serve so cruel a master; and one day after offering to cut my throat, when I knew I was watch'd, my jailor had notice of it, and advised to sell me speedily, or I would certainly make away with myself, who thereupon sold me to a Greek, and he being inwardly a Christian, though in that barbarous place, he durst not publicly profess his religion; I quickly found my condition altered, for I was now treated with much mildness, which made my work easy to me; with him I lived till I found an opportunity to make my escape in disguise to some Portuguese ships, that lay in the road and came to redeem slaves, with these I got safe into Portugal; but being

destitute

destitute of money there, and friends, I entered myself on board an East-India man, in which we sailed with so prosperous a gale, that in a very short time we arrived in view, of the fort of Diu, but seeing several vessels laying before that fort, firing against it in an hostile manner, we shaped our course to Goa, where we arrived in safety. From thence we sailed to the river Lugor; just as we were entering its mouth, we saw a great junk coming upon us, which perceiving us to be few in number, and our vessel but small, fell close with our prow on the larboard-side, and then those who were in her, threw into us great cramp-irons, fixed to two long chains, wherewith they grappled us fast to them; which they had no sooner done, but incontinently about seventy or eighty Mahometans started out from under the hatches, who, 'till then, had laid lurking there, and pouring out their small shot upon us, clapp'd us
aboard

aboard in an instant. Those who knew what it was to be slaves to the merciless Turks, leap'd into the sea, whereof I was one. We were not far from land, so that it was not long before myself, and five or six more, who to escape the danger of our enemies, had thrown ourselves into the sea, and afterwards waded up to our waists in mud, got safe to shore, and hid ourselves in a wood that was near; there was scarce one of us but had received some hurt, and being now without any help, we could not forbear unmaning ourselves so far as to weep and bemoan our hard fates. In this desolate place we spent the remaining dismal part of the day; but considering, that the place was moorish, and full of venomous creatures, we betook ourselves to the Owze, standing therein up to the middle. In the morning, by day-break, we went along the river side, 'till we came to a little channel, which we dared not cross

not knowing its depth, and for fear of the lizards, plenty of which we saw therein, so that we wandered about 'till we were so wearied, and hungry, that we were not able to go one step farther.

THE next morning awaking, four of our company lay dead, so there was only one remaining to bear me company. I now again thought my condition worse than if I had been hung at tyburn, surrounded by a full jury of fellow sufferers : My companion and I with tears, sang the dirges of our departed friends, expecting hourly our own dissolution. Their bodies we covered with a little earth as well as we could, for we were then so feeble that we could scarce stir or speak. In this place we rested ourselves, intending to bear our friends company in their eternal rest. About four hours after this our resolution, near sun-set, we espied
a bark

a bark rowing up the river, coming near us, we hailed her, and prostrating ourselves on the ground, beseeched those who were in her, to receive us on board. Amazed to see us in that posture, on our bended knees, and hands lifted up to heaven, they stopped.

OUR cries obtained so much pity from them, that they took us in, and carried us with them to Lugor, where about noon the next day we landed. The people in this place are as black as the devil, whom they superstitiously worship, in the form of a bloody dragon. They have many idols among them, which they hold in great esteem, as a ram-goat, a bat, an owl, a snake, and dog, to whom they ceremoniously bow and kneel, groveling upon the earth, and throwing dust on their faces; they offer rice, roots, herbs, and the like, which are devoured by old women,

women, of whom they have the same notion that we have of those, whom ignorant people suppose witches, and therefore stand in great awe of them. At the first appearing of the new moon, it is common for the women to turn up there bare bums to her, which is done in a contemptuous manner, because they suppose her the cause of something which they think a misfortune to them monthly. Dogs are of so great value with them, that whilst I was there, I have seen six slaves exchanged for an European cur. I observed many more of their customs and manners than I shall here relate, for being so preposterous and so very different from those of our own country, I very much doubt, whether my account of them would gain any belief.

THE ship that brought us hither was now ready to set sail. Being bound to Goa, the master of her was a Portuguese,
 Vo II. N who

who understood Latin and French very well, between one language and the other, I let him know, that my comrade and I desired he would accept of our service, which he condescended to do with much willingness. At Goa we stay'd not long; being on a trading voyage, touched at several places, at last we came into Smally Road, where I found some English ships, and being by this time, very desirous to see my native country, I prevailed upon my Portuguese captain in lieu of the wages that were due to me, to dismiss me; and thereupon, with much joy, I entered myself on board an English ship, being quite transported with thus unexpectedly falling into the company of my countrymen, and they hearing me relate my many misfortunes since I first put to sea, could not but take great compassion on me. And now I studied nothing more than to be an absolute seaman, and the better to familiarize them to me, I undertook

dertook the most laborious parts of the sailor's employment.

AFTER some time going on shore at Bantam, then an English factory, I was very curious to pry in the ways of trade, and observed that our merchants took what goods they pleased, without making any immediate satisfaction, it being sufficient that they belonged to such a ship, and were to pay for what they had bought before the ship sailed. One day I met with a Bannyan, whom I observed to have a box full of precious stones of considerable value. I could not sleep for thinking which way I should make myself a partner with him. At last I hammered out this invention.

I cloathed myself in India silk according to the custom of the country; and having so done, I discoloured my face, and clapt a patch upon one of my eyes.

In this disguise as a merchant I attended the Bannyan, who presently laid open his treasure to my view. I was not long in chusing what I thought would be most to my advantage, and demanding the price, we agreed he should have either so many pieces of English gold within two days, or else take his choice of what commodities I had on board. We made a shift to understand each others broken expressions, and he, without the least suspicion of my treachery, delivered the jewels into my hands.

TAKING off my disguise, I went immediately on board, and hid what I had cheated the Bannyan of, as I might easily do, the bundle being very small, in the hold of the ship, resolving not to go on shore yet awhile. The day of payment being come, and the Bannyan nowhere finding me on land, came on board our ship, where made his errand known

to our captain, that a merchant belonging to his ship, had bought commodities of him, and promised to pay him on that day. The captain reply'd, that he verily believed he was mistaken, knowing what goods the merchants properly belonging to the ship, had bought, and therefore told him he must make enquiry elsewhere for satisfaction. The Bannyan still persisted, alledging he was not mistaken, and that he was confident, if he might have a sight of all the men, he could single out the person he wanted, from all the rest. I had been so wary that I had acquainted no one soul with my project, for had I committed the secret to any, tho' ever so dear a friend, it had been no longer mine.

THE captain ordered us all to be call'd upon deck. which was done speedily. The Bannyan went round the whole
 N 3 company,

company, viewing every man particularly and very heedfully. At last he came to me, and there made a stand, which had like to have made my heart to start out of my breast, he look'd upon me on this side, and on the other side, and, to say truly on every side, and having thoroughly eyed me, he ran to our captain, saying, That should be the man, pointing to me, but that he is a white man, and hath two fees, (id est) two eyes; whereupon I was strictly examined; but for all his lifting me, I would not let drop any thing of a confession that should convict me, but lifting up hands and eyes to heaven, I utterly denied that I ever saw him, or ever had any dealings with him. I had now forgot what promises and vows I made to heaven, when in Newgate, and sentenced to be hanged at tyburn, what a scrupulous, pious, and honest life I would lead if I escaped that eminent danger,

the

the concerns of this life, and that to come were then in. But as the poet says :

Naturam expellas furca, licet, usque recurret.

In short, the Bannyman, since he could not say positively, that I was the man, was dismiss'd, not without a solemn vow that he would be revenged on us all in general.

THE next day a great many of our men went on shore, and going into China Row, a street so called in Bantam, to drink punch and tea, a great crew of Indians and Chinese headed by this Bannyman, fell upon them, killing whom they could, not directing their revenge upon any particular person, which they call running-a muck; so hot and sharp was this conflict, that many were killed on both sides, but more wounded. This accident

cident alarm'd the whole town, but more especially the English there resident, but at last, with much ado, the uproar was quiered; it was my good fortune that I was not then among them, otherwise I might have been made a sacrifice among the rest of my fellows, but I was forewarn'd, having been pre-inform'd, that such broils are usual upon such occasions. Wherefore I kept myself out of harm's way for that time. But not long after, thinking their malice was blown over, I went on shore, and walking with other's of our boat's crew, in the same row, where most of our men were used to resort, because of the liquor that was there to be had, and sometimes a girl to boot; a fellow came to me with this Bannyan I cheated, and both of them with creases, a kind of dagger, of about a foot and a half long, would have flabb'd me, had not my friends prevented them, by linking up their heels, and afterwards, with
their

their own creases, stabb'd them to the heart. After this we could walk very quiet, going any where without any danger.

BEING very hot there, our usual pastime was to go up a little river joining to the town, four or five miles, to wash ourselves; the trees so covered it over like an arbor, that the beams of the sun could not penetrate it, by which means it was fine and cool, which very much refreshed our parched bodies. I never came ashore but I drank very immoderately of punch, rack, tea, &c. which was brought up in great China jugs, holding at least two quarts; with every such jug, there was brought in a dish of sweetmeats, not of one sort, but variety, and excellent good, for which we paid a shilling English; and if you call'd for another jug, we paid no more, unless a dish usher'd it in.

ONE

ONE house especially I much frequented, for the Indian woman's sake who kept it, for though she was black, or rather tawny, yet she was well featured and well form'd, having long black hair, when she untied the tresses, hanging down to her legs, she from the first shew'd me as much kindness as could be expected among such barbarians: And I could discern her inclinations, in the same manner as a man may from beasts, when they are prone to generation; but yet it went against my stomach at first to yield to her motions. However she continued her love to me, not letting me pay for any thing I call'd for, and when there was no necessity of being aboard, she would, in a manner, force me to lie in her house, which, as those houses commonly are built, had but one story. Gold and jewels she had in great plenty, and much rich household stuff, after the Indian fashion. In consideration of this, I persuaded

suaded myself to try if I could marry her, tho' at first I could hardly kiss her without being ready to disgorge, but accustoming myself to her company, methought I began to delight in it. Thus many, nay most, for money, stick not to give themselves to the devil.

HAVING one night, lying in this woman's house, seriously considered of my resolution, and liking it indifferent well, I fell asleep, but wondered when I awoke to see a thing lie by me, all black, as if she had had a mourning smock on. It seems she could hold out no longer. I would have left her, but she held me fast in her arms. I ask'd her what she meant, she told me, in her broken English, she would money me, marry me, she meant : Ay, money me, said I, to myself, I like well enough, but without the money, the devil might have married her for me. I began to make conditions

ditions with her, but there was nothing I could ask that she was not ready to grant. So blinded by interest, away I went to my captain, and inform'd him of my design, desiring his consent to marry this Indian, which, on the account of its being so much to my advantage, he readily granted me; and my lovely spouse renouncing paganism, we were joined in holy matrimony, by an English priest.

WHAT money was got by my wife's trade, I laid out in such commodities as the country afforded, Callico's, Pepper, Indico, Green Ginger, &c, and sold them immediately to the ships lying in the harbour, doubling what I laid out, so that in a short time, I found my stock increase beyond expectation. Such satisfaction my black received from me, that she thought she could not do enough to please me, I was an absolute monarch in my family, she and her servants willingly condescend-

condescending to be my vassals, yet though I enjoyed the prerogative of a husband, yet I did not lord it too much, which won so far upon my wife's affections, and those that were concern'd with her, that as soon as I desired any thing, it was immediately perform'd, with much alacrity and expedition. I fancy'd my life to be now as happy as the world could make it, having plenty of every thing, and not controuled by the foolish self-will of an obstinate woman. I confess it was at first a great regret to my spirits, to lie by a woman of so different a complexion from my own, but custom soon made it as easy to me, as perhaps in about a fortnight I might have been with the greatest beauty in Europe.

BEING now settled once more with a wife, though a dark one, I was much respected by natives and strangers, the best of both sorts frequenting my house;

VOL. II.

O

within

within a few months after my marriage, several English ships arrived in our port, richly laden, against whose coming, I had provided all sorts of liquors and provisions that the country afforded, and as it happened, the captain, and four more of one of the ships, took lodgings near my house, by which means I had their company every day; and they seemed very well pleased, not only with my entertainment, but my conversation.

Two of these were so very handsome, that I could not but suspect they were not what they would appear to be, and by several passages I observed, I could not but conclude that they were women in disguise, and resolved, if possible, to discover the truth of what I suspected. So happening to be one day with one of the company, I made strong profession of friendship to him, and, drinking him up to a considerable pitch, I made him promise

mise to answer me one question sincerely and truly, but when I mentioned what it was, he stood for some time silent. What I desired, was to be informed of the sex, and what those two young persons really were, who were called George and Will. My friend, though very free, and unreserved in every thing else, said, there was nothing I could have ask'd of him, that he would not more willingly have gratify'd me in, however, since his promise was past, if I would be secret, and not disclose what he should tell me without his consent, he said, he would fully satisfy me ; which with some protestations I promising, he told me, they were women, who for love of the captain and supercargo, had undertaken to travel thus far, and that they lay together every night.

THIS new acquaintance and I, growing very intimate, he would needs know

some of my adventures, and what brought me to that part of the world ; whereupon relating to him some of the past actions of my life, he stood amazed at the great variety of fortunes I had passed through ; and not to be behind-hand with me, at my request, gave me the history of his own life.

C H A P.

C H A P. XI.

JEREMY contracts a friendship with a person who comes from England, and gives the following account of himself.

I WAS born in Golden-Lane, a place situate in the suburbs of London, my father's name was Isaac, and, by reason of his small stature, was commonly called little Isaac, being a native of the same place, and by profession a cobbler; his wife, my mother, was named Ursula, she was, in the beginning of her days, one of those sort of people that we call gypsies, or canting beggars; and my father travelling into the country, and wanting money to pay for a bed at night, he was forced to take up his lodging in a barn, where he first came acquainted with my mother; whether they were

ever married or no, I cannot tell, though I suppose they only took each others words, as being willing to save the charge of a parson, Notwithstanding the the great affection she had for her husband, it was not intirely confined to him, for in about six weeks she made him a cuckold, with a Banbury tinker, who followed her up to London; and their amours we so notorious in the alley where they lived, which is every whit as censorious, and as inquisitive as the purlicus of Whitehall, that the neighbours would commonly make horns at my father as he walked along the street; my father I call him, but considering the intimacy of my mother with the aforesaid tinker, and some other gallants of the same rank, it is no very easy matter to determine with certainty, from what spring to derive the generous blood that flowed in the veins of my brother, and myself; for an elder brother I had, who at the the age of
seven

seven, had attained to such ingenuity, that he seldom carried home any mended shoes to a gentleman's or citizen's house, but he would fileh either linen, silver-spoons, or something else of worth, which by negligent servants, was not laid up safely ; which trade he drove for some space of time, being, by reason of his childish years, not in the least suspected ; but the pitcher goes not so often to the well, but at length it comes broken home, in process of time he was taken with what he had stolen about him, and for the same carried to Newgate, where, poor little angel, peace be with him, he died under the pennance of a discipline, which was applied to him with a little too much vigour. Our whole family smarted in his punishment, my father sighed, my mother sobbed, and I wanted my part of these dainty morsels, which his theft furnished us withal, for by his help my father drove a pretty trade, having those
 who

who always gave him ready money for whatever he brought; and indeed his loss would have utterly disconsolated my father, but for the great hopes he had in me, who no sooner come to the same age, that my brother began to exercise his rare talents at, but I shewed the same inclination; to encourage which, my father gave his best advice, together with his instructions.

“ My son, said he, the profession of a thief is not so base, as some men at this time esteem it; considering what great men in former times have exercised it. I have heard the clerk of our parish say, that the famous Robin Hood, was no less than the Earl of Huntingdon, and that Alexander the Great was call'd so, because he was the greatest thief that ever was. I tell thee, continued he, that he who steals not, knows not how to live in the world; I say, doth not every thing
teach

teach us to steal? Doth not manhood steal upon youth; and old age upon manhood; until at last death steals upon that, and carries all degrees to his own home?"

MANY more fine things he said in honour of that profession, which he proposed I should follow, which added to my own inclinations, soon spurr'd me forward to noble exploits, and made me chuse such companions as I thought would be able to assist me in them. One of these being servant to a rich usurer, it was agreed, that, by his connivance, we should rob his master's house, and thereupon taking the opportunity of a dark evening, we slipp'd in, and planted ourselves very advantageously, yet in our rummaging for the booty, some things slipping out of our hands, the old blade, whose riches run always in his mind, suddenly awaked, and suspecting thieves, called to his man,
and

and bid him rise and strike a light, who accordingly did, but returned and declared to his master, who lay trembling and almost dead with fear, that he had made diligent search, and could perceive nothing amiss, during which interval, we had liberty to escape with a cabinet, wherein was a considerable sum of money, and some other things; but just as we were going out, we were seized on by a couple of fellows that lay perdue to arrest the usurer's brother, who had taken his house for a sanctuary, and seldom went abroad but early in the morning, and late at night, and hearing the word of arrest, my companion, whom they took for him, cry'd out thieves; the noise so alarmed the house, that trusty Roger, perceiving how matters were, went armed, as likewise did the usurer's brother, and came so furiously upon the baliffs, that they broke their heads in a trice, and put them so hard to it, that
they

they found themselves obliged to let us go, who stayed not to see the end of the fray; but afterwards our companion, coming for his share of our prize, told us, that his master finding his house robbed, had secured the baliffs, and notwithstanding all they could say in their own defence, had got them committed to Newgate, where they were to lie 'till the next sessions, in order to take their tryal for this robbery, which there was so great an appearance of their having committed.

THIS purchase brought great joy to my father, who much applauded what I had done; and so for awhile we lived riotously on the ill-gotten gain, but that being consumed, poverty began again to stare us in the face and the few household goods we had marched of in parcels to the pawn-brokers, or, as it is not improperly called by some, the devil's warehouse.

At

At last having nothing but the bare walls to look at, and the ground to lie upon, we were forced to rack our inventions for employment, and thinking we might meet with some adventure in the night, we laid out two-pence, our whole estate, in a link; my father and I rambling out together, travers'd many streets without finding any thing to the purpose, but at length, my father luckily cast his eyes upon a grocer, who was telling money on his counter by the light of a single candle only; whereupon giving me instructions, I went in, and in an humble manner intreated to light my link, which I had extinguished on purpose to favour my design, then putting out the candle, I snatch'd up a handful of the money, and fled with it before he had time to get from behind the counter, The honest grocer pursued me with great earnestness, but I was soon out of his reach, my father in the mean while, whipping into the

the

the shop, and swept all the rest of the cash into his hat. This money lasted us a considerable time, but when it grew towards a period, my father sent me out on the lay, but I wandered all day without any luck, 'till coming at last into Warwick-Lane, I saw a fellow standing in a bacon shop, with a blue pocket apron on, from whose innocent looks, I drew some presages of a golden prize; so in I went, and ask'd him the price of a pound of his bacon, Sixpence boy, said he, of the rib; and fourpence of the gammon: Well then, said I, give me a pound of the gammon; and here is a groat, which is all I have in the world, and a long time I have been getting it.

WHILST my chap was weighing the bacon, I told him a pitiful story, of my having an ill-tempered mother-in-law, who fed me only with a bit and a knock, which made me go from her many times

with a heart full of sorrow, when my belly was quite empty, nay, she would not only give me no viſuals herſelf, but take that from me which others gave me ; wherefore I begg'd of him to enable me me to ſecure this bacon, if I ſhould be ſearched, that he would be ſo kind as to thruſt it down my back in my hankerchief, between my doublet and my ſhirt, which he very courtecuſly conſenting to do, I had thereby a moſt convenient opportunity of cutting off his pocket, after which I laid down my ſourpence, and departed with great celerity, and came home full of joy ; but there contrary to my expectations, I found my mother in tears, for my father was preſſed for a ſoldier, yet at the ſight of my purchaſe the good woman was much comforted : however, knowing it would not laſt long, we broke up houſe keeping, and my mother undertaking to ſhift for herſelf, put me to a brother of her's, a ſuburban barber,

and

and soon after she died ; so that solely depending solely on my uncle, I used great diligence in his sight, but was very roguish when I thought I could play my pranks slyly. My aunt who never much cared for me, watched me very narrowly, and oftentimes caused me to be severely chastised, for which I vow'd revenge in my heart, and soon found an opportunity to give vent to it.

THIS aunt of mine was extremely proud as well as ill-natured, and wore things which every body thought above the condition of a barber's wife ; so one sun shiny day, sitting in the shop sewing with her back towards me, I took out a burning glass, that I had provided for the purpose, and set all her head cloaths on fire about her ears, which made her shirek and cry out in a terrible manner ; whereupon starting up as in a fright, I catch'd a pail of water out of the maid's

hand, with which she had been washing the kitchen, and threw it all over her. This, altho' it made my aunt look like a carted bawd, she took as a great courtesy at my hands, and thanked me for saving her life.

BUT thinking myself not yet sufficiently revenged, I soon after took another occasion to wreck my malice upon her. My aunt did not dress for nothing, nor was it only to please her husband, but she had now and then a private friend, whom she bestowed her best favours upon. One shop-keeper used constantly to haunt our house, not a day passed in which we had not his company. This man, my uncle entertained with much respect, for what reason I know not; but as the poet says:

*Experience every day doth plainly shew,
Cuckolds are kind to them that make them so.*

ONE

ONE day my uncle went out to wait upon a customer at a pretty distance, and was no sooner gone, but the shop-keeper was with my aunt; the maid was immediately sent to market, and in order to be quite by themselves, I had leave to go to play, for which I kindly thanked my aunt, and seeming very forward to go out, took my hat but clapp'd the door to on the inside, then softly stole back and hid myself under the stairs, where undiscern'd, I could plainly see all the passages between the shop-keeper and my aunt.

Thinking me gone, my aunt clasp'd him in her arms, and fell to kissing him very amorous manner; and whilst he delay'd going up stairs, not knowing whether every thing was secure, she upbraided him for his sloth, crying, Nay! pish! Why do you trifle when the coast is clear? let us take time by the fore-

lock, lest we be prevented in our design; in truth you are so long about the prologue, that it may chance to marr the comedy, make not such a long stop at a porch, but enter love's citadel, and ransack the choicest treasures that proceed from an entire affection. And hereupon after a short kiss, up stairs they went hand in hand; after whom I crept, and softly locking the door, got down again with the key, and bestowed it in the beg-house, which I had scarce done but my uncle came in, yet I being supposed to be absent, came puffing and blowing after him, as if I had come a considerable way; but my uncle having occasion for some money, went up stairs, where finding the door shut, he knocked and called and at length my aunt with a faint voice, cry'd out, ah! dear husband, I was taken with such a swimming in my head, that not longer able to bear it, I was forced to come up stairs and lie down upon
the

the bed, and in the mean time, I suppose your unlucky kindsmen, who mind's nothing but mischief, has lock'd me in, and carried away the key : upon this, I was strictly examined; but stoutly denied it, alledging, that I rather believed, that whilst my aunt slept, some thief had gotten into the chamber, and lock'd himself in; this suggestion so wrought in my uncle's head, altho' my aunt alledged, it was impossible, that fearing the loss of his gold, he instantly sent for a smith, who broke the door, and there, upon search her gallant was found under the bed, almost dead with fear; whom my uncle drew out by the heels, and buffeted without mercy, though my aunt, on her bended knees, pleaded for him, and begg'd his pardon; and had not the smith interposed, he had undoubtedly have spoiled his sport for the future; However, he at last got away, bearing some marks of my uncle's indignation in his face; who next
began

began to rate my aunt, but she, with tears and intreaties, and great promises of amendment, at length asswaged his fury, and for the future never offered to controul him in what he ever after said or did.

AFTER I had play'd several more tricks of the like kind, my uncle dying, I was again drove to my shifts; but it was not long before I met with an ale-draper, who wanting a youth, I found means to get into his service, where I learnt to nick and froth, to score with double chalk, and steal away the drink when the company were half-fluster'd, or busy at cards, and then bring it to them again for fresh. I knew how to force the beer with drugs, whereby the guests might quickly become drunk or stupified, when I would make them pay their reckonings twice over, or dive into their pockets. Sometimes we put bay-salt
in

in the drink, then the more they drink the drier they were; at other times horseradish, to make them speedily evacuate, and call for more.

I WAS become a perfect master in all the elements of a tapster, and could cry anon, anon, Sir, as dexterously as Francis, in the play, in short, I had my business at my fingers ends, but all my expectations was dashed at once, for having been a little too familiar with Prudence, our maid, her belly beginning to wamble, I thought it high time to be packing; so seraping together what I could conveniently carry, I march'd off.

I HAD not rambled long before I was entertained by a cook, with whom I observed many tricks and knaveries, such as making pies with the meat cut off from the hides in Leaden-hall Market; roasting meat twice over, buying beggars meat,

meat, and mincing or bashing it for our guests, with the old trade of nicking and frothing. By the time I lived here long enough to be in good esteem with my master, my father was returned home in a very lamentable and ragged condition, and soon found me out, becoming very importunate with me to steal something to supply his pressing necessities, which I had too much compassion and filial duty not to listen to, and so made sure of a silver bowl; which my master missing at night, when he went to lock up his plate, strict enquiry was made after it. The servants all endeavouring to clear themselves, the maid proposed we should go to a conjuror, which being agreed to by general consent, we were advised to go to a cunning-maa, who lived near the famous castle of king Lud, where those those men only that are free and doom'd to lose their liberty.

THIS man, by the gravity of his looks, you would have taken for a second Cornelius Agrippa, and nothing less than a privy-counsellor of the stars, and madam Destiny. After he was apprized of our business, he he proceeded in great solemnity from his study; then placing himself in an arm'd chair, waited for our offering befor he offered to open his mouth; but presently spoke, like Balaam's ass at the sight of an angel; then making many pot hooks and links upon a paper, he uttered these deep sentences. "Jupiter, said he, being lord of the Ascendant, denotes good luck for the gaining your bowl, did not Mars intercept with a malevolent aspect, reflecting his rays on Mercury, by which it is plain that the bowl has been stolen?" That, said I, we could have told your worship; "Interrupt not the planets, cry'd he, Jupiter, continued the Astrologer, is combust in Aries, " a forked

“ a forked sign, and Venus in the fiery
 “ Trigon shew, that the party who had
 “ the bowl, lives either East, West,
 “ North, or South, and it must needs
 “ be above or under ground, in one of
 “ those parts of the world.” Upon
 which he ask’d us, if there had not been
 a man with carrot locks and a red beard
 that day drinking in our house; the
 wench replied in the negative; Nor one,
 said he, with black hair; No, said she;
 Nor with brown hair, said he, in grey-
 ish cloaths, of a middle stature? Yes,
 answered she, I verily believ. there was.
 Then he asked if we knew him? Upon
 the maid’s saying he was a stranger. Then
 said old Nostradamus, The sun being ill-
 posited in the eleventh house, and Mer-
 cury in the trine with Virgo, it was past
 all peradventure, that a man with brown
 hair that hath your plate, in the very
 cloaths I have before described. Upon
 this, least my father should be suspected
 by

by this description, I asked him, though I thought he knew no more than a gander, if a woman might not have the bowl? No, said he, very gravely, for Venus being weak in the reception of Gemini, and the moon in the vane both feminine planets, it plainly demonstrates, that the thief wears breeches, and is consequently a man, who is between forty and fifty. Upon my life, cried the wench I remember the party that had it, and the doctor has rightly described him, for he was between twenty and thirty years of age, you say right, woman, said the doctor, Ay, ay, said she, I served the rogue sixpenny-worth of roast-beef. O! if I set eyes on him again, I'll maul him to some purpose.

WITH this story we went home to our master, all absolutely free from any suspicion; and I continued to commit several petty thefts, without being ever

call'd to account, but was highly regarded by my master, 'till the time of his death, when the good man left me a legacy of twenty pounds, the greatest part of which his nephew, and executor cheated me of; but I had wherewithal to put myself apprentice to a plaisterer, with whom I worked with great diligence, 'till it happened, that having a jobb to do to beautify a tavern, near the river Thames, the house jetting out over the water; to accomplish which, my master had laid two poles out of the window, and upon them tacked down two boards, but wanting a cord to fasten one of the poles within, he ordered me to sit upon it; but whilst he was singing at his work very merrily, I fell fast asleep, and dream'd that my old master the cook was alive again, that I lived with him, and thar our house was full of guests; some gentleman, as I supposed, knocking in the next room, I started up to see what they wanted, and
down

down came my master, calling out for help.

WHEN being a little come to myself, and considering what had happened, I looked out, where I could perceive him bobbing his head above water, and floating about like a shuttle cock, expecting no other but that he would be drown'd, and that I should be hanged for it, if taken; I stood not long to pause, but packing up what things I had, I marched off with great speed, nor could I think myself safe in London, but went into the country, and there betook myself to rambling; but finding the money I had, near spent, and knowing I should have but cold comfort when it was gone, it being in the extremity of winter, I cast many things in my mind, but could conclude on nothing; at last fortune guided my steps to a little alehouse, where, by an exceeding good fire, I found a

company of strolling beggars of both sexes, amongst whom, after some discourse and ceremony, I lifted myself, and was dubbed knight of the ragged order, by pouring a pot of ale upon my head whilst I kneeled; and so having a young mорт given me, for my companion, we took leave of the rest, and proceeded in search of our fortunes; when it so fell out, that coming to a farmer's house, and much desiring a hollow bit, I whipped up a hen, and having spoiled her cackling, put her in my budget, and then went to the man's door who owned her, and, in a doleful tone, intreated his charity to a poor, lame, and distressed creature; but he, having from a window observed my former exploit, sent privately for the constable, and caused me to be apprehended: Upon search, the fact appearing plain, and upon their unbinding my cloaths and rollers, there being no lameness, a council was called, and immediately

mediately I was doomed to the whipping post; a thresher with a cart whip, being to put their sentence in execution, who being accustomed to the flail, laid on with so hard a hand, that I could imagine no less but that he intended to make chaff of me, but the abundance of blood that flowed from me, prevailed with the spectators to take him off, e'er he could perfect it, yet I was afterwards to go before a justice, to be try'd after I had been executed, which however I submitted to, but found no farther punishment than to be passed back to London; yet so far wrought the terror of my disaster in the mind of my mort, that, fearing the like punishment, she made what haste she possibly could from me, and from that day I saw her no more.

BEING found for London, I had not passed through the hands of above three or four constables, before I gave them

the flipt; but it being late, I was overtaken by three fellows, who demanded what I was, I told them a poor distressed creature, oppressed by the severity of an adverse fortune: guessing by this that I might be for their turn, they asked me, if I would hazard myself in an enterprize they were about, and I should be considerably rewarded for my pains. To which I reply'd, That no danger should deter me from joining in it, if I might be assured of having my necessities relieved by it. Then they told me, it was to rob a house, wherein they were sure of a good booty, and that my part in this undertaking should be to get in at the window, which on account of my slenderness, I might very easily do, and so open the door to them; which I performed accordingly, and then two of my new comrades, with drawn swords, marched up stairs, taking me with them, one staying below, whom I afterwards understood

understood to be the coachman that had brought home the gentleman of the house that night, with two hundred pounds. In a very short time we bound and gagg'd him, his wife, and the maid-servant, and got what we came for: myself over and above rifling some private places, unknown to my companions, got a pretty many broad pieces of gold, some rings, and a watch, and then we piked off. At about five miles distant from the place, they gave me fifteen pounds for my share, and dismissed me; which happened in a fortunate hour, for soon after going themselves to a little blind alehouse, and rejoicing over their good success, the hue and cry overtook them; and at the following assizes they were all condemned to be hanged, tho' the coachman only found that fate; the other two, at the great intercession of their friends, who were very wealthy, procured so much favour as to have their
sentence

sentence of death changed into a seven years banishment.

TAKING leave so luckily of my companions, I came to a country fair, where I bought myself a fashionable suit and cloak, and then then travelled towards London; but in my way overtook a brisk lass, whom finding not at all shy, we soon grew as intimate as possible, and she passed as we went for my wife; so that I now revelled in the joys of love, and had good store of money to heighten it: for love, especially of this sort, if not supported by wealth, soon decays. This lass told me of two girls of her acquaintance, who she said, were very pretty, and had been pawned by their gallants at an inn, for forty shillings. so I went and redeemed them, and they not being able to refuse me one favour for another, I had so much love upon my hands, that I grew quite surfeited of it,
and

and thought I never should be able to relish it again.

THUS we see the most luscious food is soonest apt to cloy. Besides my money began to shrink so fast, that I found there would not be long left enough to maintain one of us, wherefore I thought it more advisable to leave the ladies in the lurch, who I knew carried a good trade about them, than be quite destitute myself. And so without taking any formal leave, I then made the best of my way to London, getting out of the house the morning before they were awake.

WHEN I got to town, I had very little to trust to, but with that little I had, I was willing to settle some way or other; in an honest way I could not pretend to, and so I even bound myself apprentice to a taylor, and while I was with him got initiated into the society of snipping apprentices,

prentices, a fellowship, you say, who were once happy in having you for a member of it; therefore I need not give you a particular account of their manners and behaviour.

WELL then to proceed in relation to myself, continued the other, one night I and two of my most intimate companions having been late at one of these meetings, and being reeling home, met with the constable and watch, who interrogating us in a manner a little too magisterially, as we thought, we gave them some very uncivil answers, for which they took it in their heads to send us to the compter, and the next day we were carried before one of the aldermen, who obliging us to pay ten shillings among us to the poor for being drunk, I was resolved to find some way of being revenged on him: And thus I brought it about. Watching for an opportunity

I ont

I one day found him standing at his door, and so boldly, with with my taylor's bag under my arm, I stept up, and desired to know if his maid, whose name I had forgot was at home? Yes, yes, said he, why then, with your worship's leave, said I, I will make bold to carry her gown to her that she gave me to mend, Are you her taylor then, said the alderman, yes, and please your worship, replied I, and have been so these two years. Well, said his worship, she is a good girl, she has been a good servant to me, and may chance to make you a good wife. Upon this, making him a low serape or two, I pass'd by him, and going to the maid, I demanded her master's scarlet gown, which he had ordered me to alter, I said; the maid having seen me from the window discoursing with her master, made no scruple to deliver it; which folding up, I immediately clapt it up in my bag, and returned, the alderman

man still standing at his door, who, as I passed him, perceiving I had a greater bulk than before in my bag, said, Well, young man, I see Susan has found you more work, and it may be she may find you another sort of work before long, if she perceives you dexterous at this: I made no reply but went away bowing and smiling, to think how I had bit the alderman.

WHEN I came to my comrades they highly applauded my ingenuity; and the gown was converted into two petticoats for two of our doxies. But the very next day after this, I had like to have been punished for all my rogueries at once, for one of my comrades and I going upon the Exchange to see what we could meet with, I chanced to spy a merchant pulling a purse out of his pocket, that seemed to have a pretty deal of gold in it, which therefore gave me a great itch to be

be at it, and so I soon got close to him, and almost as soon had his purse, but he feeling me draw it out of his pocket, immediately laid hold of me by the collar; this you may easily imagine put me in a terrible pannick; however, I was enough myself to give away the purse sily to my comrade, behind my back; and then I asked him what he meant by laying hold of me so roughly; You know well enough, sirrah, said he, the meaning of it: Where is my purse, you villain; said he, You are very much mistaken Sir, said I, I have none of it. The rascal, said he, to a friend that stood next him, has got my purse with above fifty pounds in it, I laid hold of him while he was drawing it out of my pocket. Have a care Sir, said I, what you say, and how you asperse the character of a reputable tradesman; I scorn to take a purse, perhaps as much as yourself, and am very ready to go along with you, and

any friend you shall take with you, to what place you shall appoint, to be search'd. Why, thou hast not the impudence, firrah, said he, to deny it, when I took you in the very fact? By this time, my comrade, who had got to a distant part of the exchange, held up the purse, which happened to be a very remarkable one, being orange colour, with a silver tassel at the bottom of it, who has lost a purse, cry'd he, aloud. The merchant seeing this, let go his hold, Sir, said he to me, I heartily ask your pardon, that is my purse, I know it from a thousand; and so away he walks to my companion, while I got clear off. But when he came to lay hold of his purse, behold there was nothing in it! Where is the money Sir, said he, to my friend Jack. Money Sir, cry'd the other, was there any thing in it? It was empty, as it is now, when I pick'd it up, just under my feet. Upon this the merchant began

began to rave like a madman for letting the rogue go, who he was sure had taken it, as he supposed, when he had got the money in his pocket threw away the empty purse, and then offered to be searched, knowing money had no earmark, and pretending himself to be a reputable tradesman, that it might not seem extraordinary that he should have so considerable a sum about him.

My friend and I knew where to meet, and there, like a couple of honest pick-pockets, fairly divided the spoil, with a great many compliments to each other, on our ingenuity and fidelity.

FLUSH'D with my late success, I made another attempt in the same place about two days after, and then was actually taken in the fact, without being any ways able to make my escape, so was committed to Newgate, try'd, and con-

demned; but as the gentleman I robb'd, had his money again, he himself made interest to save my life, on condition of my banishing myself out of the king's dominions for seven years, which is the occasion of my coming to this place, and having the pleasure of the present conversation.

CHAI

C H A P. XII.

Jeremy discovers two of his former mistresses, and has a relation from them of the various turns of fortune they had met with since he left them.

I WAS well pleased with this account my friend Gregory, for that was his name, gave me of his own adventures, but could not help being more desirous to know who the two women were, for I could not but fancy I had seen them somewhere in England; and the next day very fortunately, going to pay a visit to my friends on ship-board, I found them by themselves, the men being all gone out upon business that they could have no part in; wherefore addressing myself to them, with great respect, I entreated them not to be offended, or amazed, if my prying eyes had discovered a secret, which, I assured them, should be as safely

lodged in my breast as their own: I told them, I was so great an admirer of the fair sex, that I was sure I could know a woman by mere instinct, and therefore it was impossible to deceive me, for I was confident they were not what, by their garb, they would be taken for. At this declaration they blushed, and looked wistfully on each other; but I still pressing them to pardon my boldness, and assuring them of my secrecy, they took courage, and ingenuously confessed that they were of the other sex; and promised I should, which I most passionately desired, see them, in a few days, in their own garb: And they were as good as their words, for in two days I was invited on board to dinner by the captain, and there found the ladies in the cabin, dressed *à la mode d' Anglois*, with which I was very well pleased, not having, for a long time seen any thing so agreeable. I had not forgot our English fashion of saluting the ladies, neither were they backward

in rising to meet me on that account: Which done, I placed myself between them, and soon began a discourse, that I knew would not be displeasing to them, and that was commending their beauties, telling them, that if the present Emperor of the country, the Great Mogul, did but understand what a treasure he had in his country, by their arrival, he would quickly secure it to himself, and hinder the prosecution of their voyage any further: To this they replied, that they did not believe he would see any thing in them that should merit such an esteem: but added one of them, If he should do so, and be never so desirous of my company, yet I am better satisfied in the society that I am at present in possession of, than if I were courted and served by the greatest prince upon earth.

To this so generous a speech, I reply'd, that those persons who had the honour to
be

be their servants, were, in that, very happy. These compliments being pass'd, drink was brought, and after that victuals, which we had in great plenty, there being no want of any thing that could be had at the best man's table in England, and all the dishes of meat were dressed in the English fashion, by a cook of that country.

AFTER dinner we fell again to discourse, the women being very desirous of novelties, and to be acquainted with the customs of the country, especially of those used by the women: But when I told them of one custom, practised by the better sort, especially of accompanying their husbands in death, and burning themselves alive with their dead bodies, they could by no means approve of it, but accounted it great folly; for said they it cannot possibly do their husbands any good, and therefore that cruel compliment

ment of destroying themselves, answered no end. To pass through all dangers, and accompany an husband or friend therein while living, was a generous, and useful service, but as there was no remedy for death, they thought the other of casting away themselves, was ridiculous, or rather stupid. I could not but allow, that what they said was founded upon good reason: Then asked them, how they liked our men, the inhabitants I meant: Not at all, said one of them, as husbands or bedfellows, but if there were no other men to be had, we must be contented with them rather than none, as you are with the native women.

Thus we continued discoursing together upon various subjects, and all the time, as I curiously eyed the women, I could not but imagine I had formerly seen them, and had some acquaintance with them. I knew one of them, I thought
more

more particularly by the tone of her voice, but it being so long since I had seen either of them, I could not recollect where it had been. I thought it not proper, before the gentlemen, to ask them any questions, which might have given me some light into what I was desirous to know, resolving to take an opportunity when I could do it with more privacy.

I BEING now acquainted with most of their transactions, they asked my advice in disposing of their money, and selling their commodities, and what they could buy that would turn to the most advantage. To all these questions, I gave them the best answers I could, and now night coming on, I desired to leave them, and invited them all to my house the next day, which was not only agreed to, but that the women should constantly take my house for their quarters, it being

ing more convenient for them, than to continue on board the ship. They were to come in their mens apparel, and I promised to provide every thing for them with the greatest privacy; so after taking leave in the handsomest manner I could, I came home to my wife, who at my desire got all thing ready, not only for the next day's entertainment, but for the future conveniency of my lodgers, who were not to be known to her for other than men.

THE next day they came, and we were again all very merry; but some occasions calling away the men, the women were left alone with me; I was now resolved to enquire whether they had never known me, they both replied not that they at present knew of, but they said, that certainly they had seen me in England, but at present they could not remember where, wherefore they prayed
me

me to give them some account of my condition and quality when I lived in England; to this I reply'd, that I had been indeed of all conditions, and a very rambler, and it was a great chance but if they had been in any publick house of entertainment, that I might have seen them there; to this they both answered, that they had, for some time, been publick enough in entertaining gentlemen in their company, with much freedom; But said one of them, I have certainly seen and known you before I undertook any such courses, for if I be not mistaken you are the man who first deceived me, and therefore, I pray tell me, if in your travels in England, you did not light into a farmer's house, and did some favours or rather discourtesies to his daughter, and then left her. Hearing this, after some consideration, and seriously examining her, I recollected to be the very farmer's daughter, whom I had bereaved
of

of her maidenhead, and then most ungratefully quitted, without taking any leave of her, tho' I had made a promise to marry her, both to herself and her father, when he caught us together in the dairy, led thither by the noise we made by overturning the form, and breaking some of his milk pans; I thereupon ran to her, and embracing her, begg'd pardon for using her as I had done, but told her that nothing was at that time more dreadful to me than the thoughts of matrimony, which I then could find no way to escape, but by running away from her as I did: But since things were so alter'd on both sides, I hoped she would now forgive me. She could not help shedding some tears at first, which were owing to the different passions that were jarring in her breast at once, love, anger, joy, revenge, and compassion; but, wiping her eyes, she told me she did forgive me, and very fondly permitted me to em-

brace and kiss her again and again; whenever I thought proper.

THE other woman, hearing that my acquaintance with her companion began with the loss of her virginity, mused and blushed, and very strictly beholding me, said, And truly, if I be not mistaken, I purchased my acquaintance with the same loss; but I was deceived by you in a more subtle manner than this, my friend here, for she knowing you to be a man, permitted you to her bed, as she has formerly related to me: But if you are the person that I mean, as I now think you are, you became my bedfellow by a mistake, for not only I, but many others of the family, believed you to be a woman. Hearing her say this, I fixed my eyes upon her, but could not yet perfectly remember her, madam, said I, I own I have been guilty of many frauds to get admittance into the company of that part
of

of the fair sex whom I have set a great value upon; but that you have been one that I ever had any knowledge of in England, I cannot pretend to say; but hope if you are one of those charming creatures who were at a boarding school, where I passed for a maid servant, you will have the goodness to forgive me for what happened there, and if it was not there, I cannot imagine where else I could have the happiness of being so intimate with you, as you say I have. There indeed it was, replied she, that I lost my virginity, and with that my honour, and the affection of an indulgent parent, who for that crime, which alas! I knew not to be one when I was guilty of it, cast me off, and I have ever since been forced to wander like a desolate vagabond.

I WAS much amazed at these two adventures, and indeed pitied both the wo-

S. 2

men

men, especially the last, whom I had so long since deceived, and seeing the tears fall from her eyes, I kneeled down to her, begging her pardon, and telling her that what was passed was not to be remedied; but if she pleased, I would, for the future, be her humblest servant in assisting her in whatever was in my power. To this she answered, she knew there was no recalling or preventing what had passed, but the remembrance of that, her first misfortune, whenever it was brought into her mind, could not but sensibly afflict her, and sure nothing could make it return so strongly upon her as the present rencounter, but she would endeavour to throw off that sorrow, and make the best of a bad matter; as she had hitherto been well enough contented with her condition, so she intended to bring her mind to it for the future: And that now she had had the satisfaction she had often desired of seeing the person, who first cropt
her

her virgin honour, she should have more peace in her mind than before.

HER companion likewise said, that it was the greatest satisfaction she had ever received since the loss of my company, that she had again found me, for notwithstanding my base and abrupt leaving her, she had still preserved a more cordial love for me than for any person she had ever since then enjoy'd. The other said the same, and though I was partly unknown to her when I lay with her, being disguis'd in women's apparel, yet she still had me in her memory, and often wished for the sight of me; and from this discourse we all concluded, that tho' a woman had many husbands or servants, yet she seldom loved any man with so much affection as him, with whom she first tasted the sweets of love, and who had her virginity.

WELL

WELL ladies, said I, I am so much bound to you for preserving an affection for me, who have so little deserved it, that I shall dedicate the remaining part of my life, wholly to obey and serve you, as for that profession of your love now, said the youngest, and her whom I had enjoyed at the boarding-school, it matters not much, for we have had experience enough in the world to shift for ourselves, and neither are we unprovided of those, who you know are our servants, and who will take care of us, and save you that trouble. No trouble at all, replied I, but an honour which I pray you to bestow on me, to serve you in any degree.

THEY were very much surprised as well as myself at this adventure, and I thought it was best to talk no more of it at present; wherefore I called for some wine, in which I begged we might drown
all

all melancholly, for they were now grown very serious, with reflecting on these pass'd affairs.

At length they again resumed their jovial temper, and beginning to be a little frolicksome, I assid'd them in that humour; but was very earnest to know their adventures, being, as I thought, somewhat concerned therein, they being both with child by me when I left them; I therefore begg'd the satisfaction of knowing what became of the fruit of our enjoyments, for I told them, I was not insensible of the condition I left them in, when I parted from them. Truly, reply'd Mrs. Mary, my boarding school acquaintance, I know not what became of mine since it was born. And said the other, whose name was Dorothy, the farmer's daughter, I know but little of mine since it was a year old. I was desirous to hear of both their fortunes, or rather

rather misfortunes, since I first knew them; and they agreeing to give me that satisfaction, it was concluded, that Mrs. Mary, with whom I had first to do, should first relate her story; and therefore she began as follows,

CHAP.

C H A P. XIII.

[Mrs. Mary's Account of herself.

IN the account I shall give of the scenes of life I have been engaged in since I last saw you, I shall be short, but as clear as I can, for I have no reason to disguise any of my actions from you and my friend and companion here, who both know the world so well, and have such a particular knowledge of me. To begin then, said she to me, although I must needs confess I received much pleasure in your first embraces, when I found you were of a contrary sex from what you had assumed; yet those dear delights have been the occasion of all the troubles and crosses which have since overtaken me.

I was very young, not above sixteen years of age when I first lay with you ;
and

and so innocent I was at that age, that I did not imagine that I should have found so sudden an alteration in my body, as was thereby occasioned; neither did I conceive what would be the effects of it, till some of my other companions, who had lain with you before me, were discovered to be sick, and the occasion of their distemper being enquired into, it was found they were with child, and then I guessed myself to be in the same condition.

I suppose you were not ignorant of what you had done, and therefore took to flight, but though you contrived your escape cunningly enough, by putting on mens apparel, yet it was observed, and you were followed so narrowly, that we supposed you were taken; but it proved otherwise. Yes, replied I, when I made my escape, I made for London, and being habited in a suit of cloaths of my mistress's

mistress's son's, I was fearful of being discovered, and known by them, and therefore meeting with a young man of my acquaintance, I remember I persuaded him to exchange cloaths with me, and so escaped, but I would gladly know how he came off. Truly, replied Mrs. Mary, that story was somewhat strange; for the constable who seized him, had orders not to make much noise in the matter, but only to secure him at present in his own house, which he having done, came to our boarding-school, and acquainted our mistress, that he had secured the party; this being known, my mistress sent her son, whose cloaths were stolen, to the place, where instead of finding our maid Jane, for by that name I remember you went, when you lived with us, he saw a strange young man in his cloaths, tho' he was told before you had his cloaths on, which he saw before him, yet he knew you well enough not to be so mistaken,

for

for the party who was in that habit, was nothing like you: he thought all that had been reported to him was false, 'till he had made a farther enquiry of the young man, your friend, who was first asked where he had those cloaths, he not knowing any reason why he should deny any thing of the truth, freely and fully acknowledged, that he had them in exchange for his own, of a young man his friend, and being ask'd many other questions, As whether he knew you? And knew you to be a man? And where this exchange was made? He fully resolved his examiners of all questions, and proved the exchange of cloaths by the people of the house where the exchange was made.

MY mistress's son, being returned with this answer to his mother, it caus'd great wonder in all who were not privy to your disguise; but there being about seven or eight

eight of us, who were let into that secret, and were known to lie with you, we were all privately examined, and some of us having been sick for some time before, the cause was now strictly enquired into; and we being asked whether you were a man or a woman, we could not deny our knowledge thereof.

UPON this discovery, our mistress, tho' reckoned a very discreet woman, was so outrageous, that we thought she would have lost the ordinary use of her senses. She talk'd most outrageously of the revenge she would take on you, not thinking you had escaped her power. A very private and diligent search was made after you, but that being to no purpose, the young man, your friend, who had been secured, was discharged, being found wholly innocent of the crime; neither was he deprived of the cloaths he had on, but had them freely given him, and a

sum of money promised him if he could find and secure you; but tho' he used all possible means, and I myself had try'd some, yet I could never hear any thing of you, 'till this late encounter.

BUT to proceed in my story, our mistress, upon second thoughts, resolved to keep this business private for some time longer, to see how many of those seven or eight with whom you had lain, would prove with child; and it was not long before she found that five of the number were pregnant, whereof I was one. How she ordered matters with the rest, I know not, but for my own part, my father being made acquainted with my misfortune, wholly refused to take any care and notice of me, neither have I ever since seen his face; for tho' I suppose he loved me well enough, yet I had a mother-in-law, who might persuade him to slight me, and made use of this occasion to throw me off;

off; but tho' I was cast off by my father, yet I had an aunt, who was sister to my own mother, who came and visited me, and finding that what was passed could not be help'd, took me home with her to her house, where at the usual time, I was delivered of a daughter, which was, soon after its birth, sent farther into the country, to be nurs'd, and, I suppose, it was carried thus privately, in hopes to fodder up the crack that might be in my reputation, which tho' it did for the present, yet it soon after broke out again.

For a young gentleman, who lived in the next town to that where my aunt dwelt, having seen me, fell deeply in love with me, and often waited on me at my aunt's, and took many opportunities of meeting me abroad. Though I liked and loved him well enough, and could have been pleased to have entertained his love with liking at the first offer of it, yet

I was commanded by my aunt, to stand off, and be coy in my entertaining him, lest, as she said, he might by my freedom, suspect me of lightness; for the matter had been so privately carried in my lying-in, that it was not known to him, nor any but some few in the house, and to all others I passed for a virgin.

TAKING this advice of my aunt, I gave him but indifferent entertainment, so that, as he was passionately in love with me, he devised all ways he could to wooe, please, and win me; and to that end not only made me many presents, but also was very liberal to my aunt's maid, who promised him all her assistance, and gave him notice of all opportunities there were of coming into my company. My aunt managed every thing in this business so prudently, that my father was brought to consent to part with a considerable sum of money for my fortune,

such

such as the gentleman had no objection to.

THERE wanted nothing now to conclude this affair, but the accomplishment of a few days, in which all writings were to be sealed, and the wedding to be consummated; when all was undone by the treachery and perfidiousness of this my aunt's servant-maid; for she having received large gifts of the young gentleman, and I having angered her, in a trivial matter, she to be revenged on me, acquainted my suitor with my condition, and that I should not die of my first child, for he should be a father the first day of marriage; although at her first declaring this matter to him, he could not give any credit thereto, yet she affirmed the same with so many, and so earnest asseverations, that he was confirmed in that belief, and therefore, enjoined her to secrecy and assistance; and to that end,

T 3

presenting

presenting her with somewhat that was considerable, he left her ; and now being determined to deceive me, as I intended to have done by him, he ordered his affairs accordingly, and to that end caused some delays to be made in the writings.

W^e being now, as I thought, as good as man and wife, I entertained him with much freedom, and he courted me with less observance, coming now closer to me in his salutes and embraces. I was so pleased with him and his actions, that I became wholly at his devotion, and therefore, without the consent or knowledge of my aunt, we went together out of the town to a merry-making, with several of his acquaintance, where we stay'd somewhat late ; and he having caused me to drink to a good pitch, made a halt by the way, and so we went into an inn that he knew, he pretending to have something

something amiss in one of his horse's shoes. Here we have privacy, he attempted to be freer with me than ever, and prevailed to far with me, that he had the examining of my placket, with more freedom than modesty could well allow of; but tho' he would have proceeded farther, I had yet so much discretion to refuse him, therefore he desisted, and so we mounted our horses, and he conducted me safe to my aunt's: But altho' it was late, she sat up to expect me, and expressed herself very angry with him for keeping me out to such an unreasonable hour. He did not relish her words, but reply'd somewhat tartly, which increased her anger, and raised it to some passion; and so, at that time, they parted, he riding home to his own house: But I was sufficiently schooled by my aunt. I excused all with soft answers, and pleaded the disobedience, which I thought I was bound

bound to pay him, since our marriage was so near being compleated.

My lover was resolved to make use of that day's experience of my uneasiness, and my aunt's anger, which he was well enough pleased should continue, and therefore forebore coming to visit me as usual ; but sent a messenger to my aunt's maid, who had betrayed me, to desire her to persuade me to give him a meeting. She punctually obeyed his orders, and there, and then, was my ruin contrived. It was agreed by them that she should instruct me to be ruled by him in every thing, without acquainting my aunt any more with my proceedings. He wrote letter to me, wherein he promised a continuance of his love, and begg'd the same on my side; and for a proof thereof, desired me to prepare to meet him at a place appointed; which I did, and there we concluded

cluded to go together to London, where he promised to marry me, without any delays.

I, BELIEVING him in every thing as persuaded by my aunt's treacherous maid, took only some few necessaries with me, and so I went to him, and then accompanied him to London, where he had provided lodgings for himself and his wife. I was at first well contented to discourse with him by the names of husband and wife; but when bed time came, I was not quite so well satisfied to go to bed to him, which though I opposed it, yet in the end, after many protestations of having the marriage rites performed the next day, I consented to, and thereby agreed to my ruin; for the next day, instead of marrying me, he went out early in the morning, leaving me only with the landlady of the house, and returned not in two days; and then pretended

pretended he had been sold a great many
times, and that he was now in the hands of
a creditor, who was very cruel to him, and
that he was forced to be in custody
of bailiffs ever since, 'till he had persuaded
a friend to lend him some money, which
together with what he had of his own,
he said, he had paid to his creditor, and
so was discharged. And, said he to me, I
have sent home for some more money,
which I know will be brought to me in
two days time, and then I shall put an end
to this business of our marriage.

ALTHOUGH I seemed discontented with
what he told me, and began to believe
that he would abuse me, yet I knew it
was to no purpose to be very angry, and
only caused him to give me fresh protest-
ations of the honesty of his intentions,
and

and that as soon as his money was come he would do all I required.

Thus was I forced to be contented with what he said, and to comply with him in all his desires, for we constantly lay together, but I kept within doors very privately, refusing to be seen by any body 'till such time as our wedding should be over.

BUT though two or three days, and a week was now past, since he pretended he had sent into the country for money, yet there came no returns; at which I was very much discontented, he also seeming dissatisfied, I then told him, that I had brought a small sum of money with me, which I supposed would be sufficient to pay the charges on that occasion. He asked me how much I had, I told him, about ten pounds. I remember he was somewhat blank, and non-plu's'd at this
pro-

proposition; but he soon recovering himself, told me, that he expected an hundred pounds to be brought him, and that would be little enough to defray all the charge he intended to be at; for he proposed to lay it all out in cloaths for me and himself, that we might appear as we ought, not only to his friends in London, whom he intended to receive visits from on his marriage, but also in the country, whither he intended to return in a short time to demand my portion, and settle all things according to the agreement of our friends; and as for the small sum of ten pounds, he told me, I should have occasion to lay it out in trivial things on that occasion.

THUS was I put off at this, and indeed so often afterwards, that, in plain terms, I told him I suppose he intended to abuse me; he being resolved to stand the brunt of all my exclamations, at this
time

time, did not endeavour, as formerly, to pacify me, but rather provoked me to say more, and be more angry with him, which I was, and reproached him with his abuse of me. He having heard the utmost I had to say, told me, in short, that he was the abused party; for should he marry me, as he had once intended, he should have a greater charge to maintain, than I had told him off, for he understood that I was the mother of a fine child, and so the abuse I would put upon him, was double. I was so much surprized at what he said, I was more like one that was dead than alive for the present, and it was some time before I could recover myself enough to speak to him, and when I attempted it, I knew not what to say in my own defence, for he directly told me, that he was acquainted with every particular of that affair, tho' so much pains had been taken to conceal it; and thus having said, he left me.

MANY and sad were the reflections I made, on my unhappy condition, I plainly perceived my ruin, for I knew it would be to no purpose to return to my aunt's, having, without doubt, greatly incensed her by my last departure. In fine, I concluded it was my best course at present to comply with the desires of my present lover, not knowing whether to fly for refuge, wherefore, at his return home, I began, with tears in my eyes, to lament to him my sad condition, begging his pity and pardon for what was past, and clearly confessing the truth of all my former misfortune, I promised him that for the future I would be constant to him, and obedient in all things; He gave me the hearing, and told me all should be well; but I could never find him after that inclinable to marry me, but still put me off with one pretence or other; and having had his full enjoyment of me, he began to grow cool and indifferent- I

was

was at first so carefully look'd after, that no one was allowed to see me; but now he entertained several of his acquaintance at our lodgings, where, as well as abroad, instead of his wife, I pass'd for his cousin.

AMONGST other persons who came to visit him, there was a gentleman of good fortune, who being his intimate acquaintance, was frequently at our lodgings, and he taking an opportunity, when he found me alone, made a tender of his service to me, and offered me his assistance in any thing I should be pleas'd to command him. Finding that he understood somewhat of my condition already, and believing it would be to no purpose to conceal any thing from him, I gave him a full narrative of all my misfortunes; he seem'd very much surpris'd at the recital of so many strange adventures, but did what he could to comfort

me, and promised his best assistance in endeavouring to prevail upon his friend to keep his promise of marriage with me; for, said he, I can see but little reason he has to refuse it, the boarding-school affair being a business of that subtle kind, that I can hardly think you are to be blamed for it.

THIS gentleman accordingly did all that was possible to possess my hoped-for husband with the same opinion, and persuade him to marry me, but all in vain; for he had now all the sweets he could expect from me, having lain with me for above a month together, so that he was now cloy'd, and therefore told his friend, that for a mistress he intended to keep me, but never to have me for a wife. I was almost distracted when he gave me this account, but the gentleman comforted me again, saying, that he hoped, in a short time, to put all things to rights.

rights. Seeing it was to no purpose to be angry, I resolved to bear all things with patience, and endeavoured, as much as I was able, to put on an air of gaiety; he, thinking therefore no time so proper as this, put a question to me, which he said he had several times before had at his tongues end, it was, in short, that I would be kind to him; and he had been so civil to me, that I knew not how to deny him any thing, tho' I did not yield the first time he ask'd me, yet as all flesh is frail, you know, and the devil is in some young fellows if they have but the least encouragement, I cannot deny but I did the second, and put him in full possession of all that heaven or charms, as he was pleased to call it, that I found it was impossible to keep him out of.

Thus was I enjoyed by two men, but my last lover was very cautious in keeping this his enjoyment from the

knowledge of his friend, and we took opportunities in his absence, to renew our pleasures: But, at length, we grew so bold in these practices, that my first lover watching his opportunity, by hiding himself in the chamber, took us in the very encounter; whereupon he used much outrageous language to me, and my new gallant, telling him, he had abused him, in persuading and urging him to marry with one who was his prostitute: the other flew into high expressions, and being valorous enough, they drew their weapons, and before I could get any to interpose and hinder their fighting, my new lover was wounded, and that so desperately, that he fell; the other seeing that, and supposing him killed, fled, and so left me, and my wounded friend being visited by surgeons, recovered a little, but desired to be removed to his own lodgings, lest he might be prejudiced by the various reports

reports that would be spread upon this occasion; I was likewise willing to have it so, thinking it most convenient.

THUS was I left alone; and I, who lately had two lovers and servants, was now left without any, for my old friend came no more after me, and my new servant, who was wounded, was forced, for his health's sake, to be carried into the country.

I now found myself truly distressed, and kept as retired as possible, not seeing any man, and was accompanied only by my landlady, and another ancient woman who frequented her house; in vain did I expect the return of either of my lovers, and almost all my money was gone in diet, and for payment of lodging. My landlady proposed several ways and courses for me to take, as to send to my friend, who brought me hither, which

which I did, but could not bear of him ; she would have had me tend to my aunt, but I wholly refused to do that, being resolved to bear with any necessities, rather than apply again to her.

THE other old woman, who I told you frequented our house, began to speak to me, and my landlady leaving us together, she told me, that if would be ruled by her, she would so order matters, that I should want for nothing, and live the most pleasant life in the world ; I, who was now miserable enough, was well pleased to hear of pleasure, and bade her say on. She thereupon told me, that it was a great pity, that so delicate a beauty as mine should be cloistered up, and and that I should spend that time in tears and lamentations, which might not only be a pleasure to myself, but many others, who would love me with a great deal of passion ; and whereas hitherto I had only
been

been reserved to serve the pleasures of one man, or two at the most, and for that I had only reaped sorrow and trouble, that I might command many, who would not only please and serve me, but I should command their purses and have money enough at my own disposal. Many words to this purpose she uttered, and many arguments she used, tho' at the first I did not understand what she aimed at, yet by several questions which she answered me, I found this reverend gentlewoman was no other than a civil bawd, who would have had me prostitute my body for a livelihood.

THO' I had already tasted the sweets of love, first with you, and afterwards with two gallants at a time, and was thereby induced to desire more of the same pleasures, yet I was extremely unwilling to prostitute myself to every fellow that should bring the purchase of my favours
in

in his hand, which I supposed I must be forced to if I undertook that course of life, the old woman would have recommended to me; but she told me, I should not be drove to that, but have my choice of what and whom I pleased, and that a few generous friends would enable me to appear in a very splendid manner: In short, she employed so many arguments to sooth my vanity, and flatter me with fine prospects of pleasure, that I consented to leave my lodging, and went with her to the place whither she conducted me; where I was received by a grave matronly gentlewoman, in whose face might be seen the ruins of no common beauty.

SHE gave me many welcomes, and told me, that she had heard of my misfortunes, and hoped she might have it in her power to put an end to them, and introduce me into a new scene of life,
 where

where I should daily find less reason to regret the loss of past pleasures, to which end she had employed the other ancient woman, as her messenger, to persuade me to leave the house of mourning, where I was, for her's, which I should find a paradise when compared to that; and assured me nothing should be wanting to give me delight and satisfaction. I told her, I should be obedient to her commands, and did not doubt of finding myself very happy under the care of so courteous and well-bred a gentlewoman. Several other discourses we had, in one of which she gave me instructions how to behave myself, and said, that since I intended to make one of her family, she would give me an account of her manner and method of governing it.

My house, said she, being frequented by persons of all qualities, it is therefore necessary that I should be furnished with
women,

women, proper for every degree, for the servants and pages must sometimes be served as well as their masters; therefore I divide my women into three several classes, in the first of which I assure you, I intend to rank you. As my house is well enough furnished with women to accommodate my ordinary guests, so I have several who are kept abroad, who serve for extraordinary customers, and those are such as are so squeamish, that they will not see one face above two or three times; with these a maidenhead is a very great dainty, for they lay out with me for one sometimes a quarter or half a year together. Now tho' I know you have parted from your's already, yet I question not but to make a good merchandize of it, and get a round some of money for you and myself too if you will be ruled by me in every thing. I shall so manage the business, that you shall not have to do with above two or three in a twelve-month's

month's time, and they shall be such as shall not only maintain you in a handsome manner, but shall give you many jewels, and what money you want. To this discourse, I answered, that in expectation of performing all she promised I should dispose myself to be wholly directed by her.

THIS, I remember, was our first discourse, or to this purpose, and she presently ordered me a lodging within a few doors of her own house, where I had such another as myself for my companion, and we were very well accommodated with every thing; my habit was somewhat altered, for I was now put into the most exact mode. According to her directions, I carried myself in every thing, and once a day I waited on her, or else she came to me. I had not been there many days before she told me, that there was an opportunity to begin my business,

and therefore advised me to go the next day to a play, and set myself out in the best manner that I could, but she advised me by all means, to decline entertaining any discourse with any person, though I should be impertuned thereto, I promised obedience to her commands, and my companion, who was my bedfellow, attended me to the play house, where, by giving great attention to the comedy that was acted, I did not mind those who made it their chief business to gaze on me.

THE play being done, I went out, but was stopped by two gentlemen, who, by their habits, seemed to be men of quality, and offered me their service to wait on me; I, at first, answered them with silence, but seeing I had no other company but my bedfellow, they were very importunate to have me accept of theirs. I told them, that they were strangers to
me,

me, and that therefore I must beg to be excused from accepting their offer. Having so said, I called for a coach, and tho' they still importuned me to accept of their company, I still denied it, and bade the coachman drive me home.

OUR matron visited me the same night, and told me I had done well, for she had an account given her of my deportment. It is not unknown to me, said she, that you were profer'd the service of two gentlemen, one of whom is a person that is a retainer to my house, an old soldier, and several such we are forced to keep a correspondence with, upon several accounts. The other gentleman, said she, is one who has long laid out for a fresh bit, and he was carried to the play-house, on purpose to see you; of whom I gave my correspondent, his companion, so perfect an account of, that he could not miss knowing you; they both fol-

lowed your coach to your lodgings, and have since been at my house, and the young coxcomb is vastly smitten with your beauty, and offers any thing for the enjoyment of your company. I have promised him my assistance, but he must come down first, and I question not but to manage him so, that in a few days you shall find the effects of his passion in some noble present; therefore, said she, fail not of taking my direction, and I will promise you shall reap much pleasure and profit. I having promised a punctual observance of her orders, she departed, leaving me to my bedfellow, who that night entertained me with a large account of her adventures.

I REMEMBER she told me, that when she came first acquainted with our matron, she was picked up almost in the same manner that I had been; and that in less than two months her maidenhead was
fold

fold six times, for which she had gained in presents to the value of fifty pounds, and I suppose, said she, our matron gained as much more in money, since then said she, my first customers have but rarely visited me; and she having no more customers for my maidenhead, I now pass for a merchants wife, and am often sent for by that name, and seldom miss a day without having one or two customers, who entertain me as such. She being thus free with me, I thought good to ask her some more questions, as how she paid for her diet and lodging, and from whence she had cloaths. To this she answered, that, for the first half year, her diet was paid for by the matron, who indeed had all the money that was gained by her, and as for cloaths, she had them first of all lent, or given, by her, and since given her by those who had to deal with her; and now, said she, I pay for my own diet, and have all the money

that is given me, all the profit she hath, is in selling her wines, and other things for our collations, and now and then I suppose, she gets half a piece, or a piece, of a new customer, by procuring of me.

I WAS was somewhat satisfied with this discourse, and the next day I was visited by the old woman, who brought me first acquainted with our matron, and she brought me a letter from my amorous gallant; I remember it was stuffed with compliments, and all the happiness he desired, was to see me once more at the play house. In this affair, taking advice of our matron, it was resolved that I should return no answer, but however, within two days I again went to the play-house, where I was no sooner seated, but I was attended by my gallant, and now I could not decline his company. During the play, he treated me with all manner

ner of fruits, and such things as could be purchased there, and the play being done, he offered me a farther treat at some other place, but I refused that, as also any farther conversation with him for the present, and again calling for a coach, I went home, refusing his company, and being very shy and coy to all his proposals, which though many, yet prevailed not at all upon me.

THE next day I had another letter sent me, as also a diamond ring of twenty pounds value, for a present, I accepted of both, and then promised within two or days to meet him again at the play-house, where my gallant came richly apparell'd. I then enter'd into discourse with him, and the play being ended, at his earnest importunity accepted of a treat he quickly provided for me at the next tavern. I then told him, that I durst not stay, for I expected my uncle to
come

come and visit me that very evening at my lodgings, who was to bring me news out of the country about my father; he being desirous to please me, consented to my departure, upon my promising to give him another meeting, at a place he appointed the next day. I was now so far engaged with him, that I kept my word punctually, and met him as I had promised, when he was very pressing with me, for the enjoyment of the last favour, but I pretending to be angry, to pacify me he gave me a gold watch, and then, with a little struggling, I permitted him to embrace and kiss me: And though I would suffer him to go no farther, yet he found there were great hopes of my complying by degrees with any of his requests.

In this apprehension, he was very prodigal in the promises of what he would do, if I would allow him to enjoy what he
was

was pleased to call the greatest happiness the world could afford. It seems he was a married man, for he oftentimes wished himself a single man, that he might be made blessed above all others, in so charming a bride.

THESE discourses, and the strict embraces I had from him, if I must speak the truth, I must needs own, did give me some emotions, which made it no small difficulty to me to continue inexorable; but remembering how I had been deceived formerly, and that the time was not yet come, to which I was limited by our matron, who was better skilled in these affairs than myself, I made a hard shift to conquer my present inclinations, and suffered him to proceed no farther than kissing and embracing me, and handling my neck and breasts.

MY bedfellow had been at this meeting with us, and we were no sooner come
home,

home, but she was sent for by our grave matron, to whom she gave an account of what had passed, but that was not all her business, for when she returned home, and we were in bed together, she told me, that she had been at the sport which I much long'd for, with a cleaver young gentleman just come out of the country, robust and vigorous, who had given her so much pleasure, that it was with much reluctance she had parted from him, but she had the satisfaction of a promise of his meeting again in a day or two, and received three crowns of his money, which he told her was but an earnest of what he would do for her while he stay'd in London.

THIS discourse, with the idea of what enjoyment and satisfaction she had received, set me so much on fire, that I was resolved not much longer to delay those pleasures which I had been so long without.

without. Nor indeed had I any need, for the next day, being visited by my new gallant, and having liberty from our matron, I entertained him with all the freedom he could desire, and went with him to the old lady's house, as if a perfect stranger there, and now was doubly courted both by him and her, so that I consented to do every thing he desired that night, nay, and all the night, for we lay together, and how well I was pleased, I believe he might easily read in my eyes the next morning.

WHILE I was thus agreeably employed at our matron's house, my bedfellow was not idle, for understanding my place would be void, she was resolved to have it supplied, and therefore summoned her country gentleman, who very readily attended her, and for that night was her bedfellow in my stead. He was so well pleased with her company that
 night,

night, that he desired it in a frolick to the tavern. She accordingly attended him, where a plentiful dinner was provided, there being four or five gentlemen and two women besides herself. Dinner being ended, and some quantity of wine drank off, they all began to be merry, and therefore a company of fiddlers were call'd, and they all fell to singing and dancing, in which they spent some time, and the other two women, being likewise ladies of the right stamp, by turns left the rest of the company, and retired in couples into a private room, where they had the conveniency of a bed; and thus they spent most part of the day, night drawing on, a reckoning was call'd for, but it being a large one, all the gentlemen were dissatisfied, not being willing to pay so dear for their pleasure, and to have such sauce to their meat.

THE musick being paid, they resolved

to put a trick upon the vintner for his reckoning; the fidlers now playing their last lesson, the gentlemen, one after another, made their several exits, leaving the three women to pay the score at the bar; who for some time waited in vain for the return of the gentlemen with money; but when the master of the house understood how he was likely to be served, he came up to the women, and gave them such a lesson as made them sing *achrimæ*. They made many apologies and excuses, but all to no purpose, money or a sufficient pledge he would have before he suffered them to go out of his house. They finding how they were drawn in, resolved to leave some of their rings, and such like moveables for their enlargement. While they were settling how many, and what the things should be, two or three men entered the room, and bluntly ask'd for the women, naming them by their several names. Not only

they but the master of the house was at first of opinion, that they came with money to redeem them; but their errand proved not quite so pleasant to the vintner, for the men declared themselves bailiffs, and that their business was to arrest the three women on several actions, and to that end produced their warrants: The women were much troubled, and began to exclaim that they owed no such sums, but the officers, who were not to be baffled, told them, they were their prisoners, and must go along with them. The vintner now put in, and demanded satisfaction, and would have had the women leave some pawn for the reckoning, but the officers told them, that they had best keep what they had, for they might have occasion for it upon the account of arrest; and for the reckoning, the vintner must take his course at law to recover that.

THE

THE vintner, for some time, opposed the officers, and said he would be paid first, and although a constable was sent for, yet to no purpose, for the warrants being produced, they were permitted to march off with their prisoners, and a coach being called for, they all crowded into it, ordering the coachman to drive towards the compter.

THE women used many arguments to the baliffs, who, now having done their business, seemed only at the request of the women to attend them to a tavern, whither the coachman had orders to drive and there they were conducted into a room, where, instead of baliffs and a prison, they had the company of their late friends, who now kindly welcom'd them, and acquainted them with their frolick, and that all this was only to cheat the vintner of his reckoning, who had formerly put tricks upon them; all parties

being well pleased, they spent that night in the tavern together, and my companion coming home the next day, acquainted me with this story.

THIS, continued Mrs. Mary, was my beginning or entrance into my publick profession, and indeed I can hardly call it publick, for I was so retired, that I admitted of but this one servant for a month, and in the first half year had not above three, but they had been so liberal to me, that I had in jewels and presents of one sort or other, to the value of above an hundred pounds. Neither had I any thing to pay for diet and lodging, the charge of that being always defrayed by our matron, who, I found, had gained above sixty pounds for procuration money, on my account, besides a great deal more spent in the house, but the trade for maidenheads falling off, I was now forced to fight under another banner, and tho'

I did

I did not pass for a maid, yet I was accounted of the next degree; for I passed for the mistress of a man of quality, who kept me as a great rarity only to please his own palate, and indeed I did not engage with above three or four, but was forced to play my game pretty cunningly to please them all, and not give them suspicion of one another; but they being all introduced into my acquaintance, by our matron, or some of her agents, she help'd me to manage my affairs, and when she knew I was to be in company with one, she would tell the other if he desired the same favour, that it could not be for the present, for either I was with my uncle, or some other relation at that time, or so narrowly watch'd by my keeper, that there was no getting a sight of me, but against such a time she would endeavour to procure my company for them. Two of my lovers in a short time, began to be wearied out, both in their bodies and

purfes, but efpecially in the latter, fo vifited me but feldom, and when they did, they defired it might be at free coft. I was not fo ungrateful at firft as to deny them what indeed coft me nothing, but that trade could not hold, fo I was obliged to look out for other customers, and was not long before I found thofe who brought me ready money in their hands, and that I began to want more than of late, being now to pay for my diet, for our virtuous matron, had, as I told you, a certain custom or rule, which ſhe always walked by, which was this; that at the firft ſhe paid for diet and lodging as long as the maidenhead customers laſted, for all that time ſhe took the money, and the women the preſents, very little money coming to their hands: and indeed it was not by our rules thought honourable or convenient, that a price, in money, ſhould be given on that account to the party herſelf; but when they came under the
notion

notion of a lady of pleasure, and virginity was gone, then it was accounted reasonable, and indeed necessary, that the party herself should receive money for her better support, and she must be at the cost of her own diet, and this was my case; And my companion and bedfellow, who had been in this condition for some time, and had passed, as I now did, for a private lady, a merchant's wife, and several other titles and qualities was now grown so common, and her face was so well known, to all our matron's better sort of customers, that she would serve no longer in that degree, but must go a step lower, and go home to the old lady's own house, and there serve in common for all gentlemen customers that came. Thus as I was removed one step lower, so was she; and it was not long before I had a pretty thing brought to be my companion, and tho' her virginity had been parted with above a twelve-month before,

before, as she confess'd to me, yet she was to succeed me, and act the part of a maid as I had done.

I now began to think what I had been, and what more I was to be; I found I was already at the second degree, and that, in a short time, I must follow my late companion to the third, and must be forced to go home to madam, and at her house prostitute myself to every drunken fellow that would be pleased to call for me, to be flabbered, tumbled, and toss'd about in what manner he thought proper. This went much against the grain, and I was much troubled at the apprehension of it. I saw that some who had been in as high a place and degree as myself, were in a condition bad enough; for there was one who been my late companions bed-fellow before I came, and was at that time called into the house, to make room for me, that
gave

gave me a terrible notion of what I was to expect; this woman keeping an open stable for all horses, had given entertainment to a running nag, and was so pepper'd, not with a horse pox, but as bad or worse a disease, which not taking care of in due time, she was under the surgeon's hands in such a way, that there were but little hopes of her ever recovering.

THOSE who escaped this, were put to the most servile offices about the house, to wait upon the ladies who came into their places, and to oblige the grooms and skip-kennells that attended their masters.

THE prospect of these things, I say, made me think of a remedy in time, and therefore I was resolved to order my matters so, as never to come into our matron's house, but to provide for myself before it came to that point, and so determined

terminated to accept of the offer of the next good customer that propos'd to take me away, and provide for me; it was no uncommon thing for gentlemen to take us away, and maintain us privately.

I had now every day a greater variety of humble servants than formerly; for, as I had done trafficking for my maiden-head, I was more free and open, and to be courted at a cheaper rate; and now I was at my own disposal, whereas before I was still watched by our matron, or my companion, who had it in charge from her to give her an account of all my actions, and the same charge I had given me over my new-come bedfellow. All that was expected from me, was always to be ready at my lodging, to come when sent for, but I had this in general, and so had all the rest of our companions, not to permit any man to exceed kissing and and feeling, 'till three or four bottles of
wine

wine were first drank. These and many other parts of behaviour we were instructed in, which I shall omit, and only give you an account of two or three frolicks I was a party in, whilst I professed this quality, and so conclude.

Among other humble servants, I had one young country gentleman, who, being heir to a good estate, was brought to London, and placed in one of the inns of courts, but instead of studying the law, apply'd himself to the softer studies of love and poetry; he had read Ovid's *Arte Amandi*, at home, both in Latin and English, and could repeat many lines of it, with several other pieces of poetry. This young gentleman being brought to our house, as I had never before been attacked in poetical raptures, and the young fellow being very handsome withal, I was most exceedingly delighted with him, and could wish for no other companion
for

for some time. He was very fond of plays, and carrying me one night to see Philaster, or love lies a bleeding; when the play was over, we went to a tavern, and there he highly commended what we had seen, and express'd himself well pleased with Arethusa's constancy and love to Philaster; but was more especially delighted with Megera's acceptance of Pharamon's courtship; for tho' she was a court lady, yet she accepted the gold he presented her, and was so kind as to attend his pleasure at his lodgings.

Now, said my spark, if I were to proffer you gold, you would not have the same complaisance; try me, said I; upon which he pull'd out five pieces of gold, and said he would give me that if I would go home with him that night. I could not resist the temptation, but agreed to what he asked, and pleased him so well
that

that in the morning I wheedled him out of a ring worth five more.

THE next night he attended me again to the play, and from thence to our matron's, and seemed every day fonder and fonder of me; at length taking me one day in his arms, and pressing me with great eagerness to him, he fetched a deep sigh. I asking the reason of it, he told me, it was owing to the extremity of love he bore to me, and which above all things in the world he desired to continue, and indeed I liked him so well, that I could have been well enough contented to have been his wife, and have left all the world for him, for he was of so easy and pliant a nature, that I could have wrought him to any thing, and therefore being desirous to make use of that opportunity, I desired him not be melancholy, for all that I could serve him in I should readily do; he finding me so free with him, told

me, that if I would wait the death of his mother, he would make me his wife, and in the mean time would entertain me, and provide for me wholly as if I were so, but he durst not marry me 'till his mother was dead, she having a great power over his estate, his father who was lately dead, so ordering it, and besides he was not yet of age to demand it.

BEING desirous to close with him, not only out of a desire to leave that course of life I then led, but also out of the pure love I bore him, I soon agreed to be wholly guided by him, and desired him therefore to be constant in his affection, and take some time to consider how to dispose of me, and I should readily consent to it, for he knew as well as I, that it would not at all be convenient for me to remain where I was; this was our discourse, and then we went from our chamber into another room, where we were expected

expected by our matron, and some others of my companions; the next day we also spent in frolicking and mirth, but the whole charge of it was not borne upon my friend, for several of our matron's friends and clients participated in the cost, as well as the mirth, which was very high, and lasted all the day and night, and then gave over, tired, tho' not satisfi'd, with such delights as Bacchus and Venus could afford: We having imitated the empress Messalina in our debauchery, of whom the poet saith:

*The Imperial strumpet, with one maid stole
out*

Into the flews——

There many thirsted-for encounters try'd

Departed tired with men, not satisfied.

THIS frolick being at an end, I and my Friend began to be serious, and in a short time after, he provided me a private

Z 2

lodging,

lodging, and I making up my pack of cloaths, jewels and money, which I had gained, and which was considerable, left our matron, and now concealed myself, and resolved to be very honest, and absolutely constant to my friend, who continued his love to me in a very great measure.

BUT at length, all the money that he brought to town with him, and all else that he could procure, was spent, for he had not spared any thing I desired to content me, and which was worse, his mother came to town to visit him, and upon examination, he could give little account how he had spent his time and money; wherefore, it being concluded that ill-company was the cause, his mother laid out very diligently to discover who they were, though he abstained from coming so often to me as formerly, that he might not be absolutely out of favour with his
 mother,

mother, yet he came or sent to me every day, I furnished him with what ready money I had, and he, in requital, promised me a continuance of his love, and a return for all my kindness, and which was more than all, he engaged himself to marry me, notwithstanding all the opposition his mother or friends could make, if I would stay till he was of age, and had his estate in his own hands. I had this promise from him, not only by word of mouth, but also in writing; but all these promises were quickly made void, for his mother, by her extraordinary diligence, found out his haunts, and discovered his coming to me, and followed the track of my life and actions so closely, that she found from whence I came, and who I was, and then soon concluded, that I had been the chief instrument in making him mispend his time and money; and now she mustered up all her wit, and used all her authority to prevent his ruin, which

she supposed would be inevitable if he continued to correspond any longer with me.

To this end she called her son to her, and examined him in the presence of his relations and friends that were in town. She put the business so home to him, that he could not deny the matter, somewhat of the manner he did, for whereas she reported me to be an absolute common prostitute, he affirmed that I was modest and virtuous, and indeed I had been very constant to him ever since our first acquaintance; but it being proved from whence I came, and how immodest I had lived, it was sufficient to make her believe I could be no fit wife for him. She was a very discreet woman, and one who had known the world, and I suppose was well enough acquainted with that saying of the poet.

*If modesty and women once do sever,
Farewel their name, farewel their fame for
ever.*

And therefore it being evident enough what I had been, she from thence concluded what I would be, and, in fine, so schooled her son, and so ordered the matter, that he was forced to relinquish my company; and because she would be sure he should do so, she never left him, 'till she had got him in the mind to travel; and so, putting him in an equipage suitable to his quality, she sent him to France.

Thus, when I thought myself near the greater happiness I ever yet arrived at, by being married to this young gentleman, whom I really loved, was I stripped of all my hopes and the pleasing joys that had been raised in my mind, by his sudden

sudden departure from me ; and more especially at the manner of it, for he had not the opportunity nor power to be civil to me, in re-imbursing me with the money I had lately furnished him with, for his mother gave him no more ready money than he should have present occasion for, promising to supply him with more by bills of Exchange, when he should arrive at the place he was designed for, and then he promised that I should hear farther from him.

[THIS was the substance of his letter, and indeed I could not well complain of him, for what money he had lately received of me, had formerly been his own, but I was now reduced to a very bad low condition, having no ready money, so that I was forced to sell my jewels, and for a while supplied my necessities with what they yielded me ; I lived very
retired

retired for some time, but finding no effects of my friend's promise to me, I began to consider what course I had best take, I was very unwilling to visit my old matron again; but one day walking out, I was met by one of my old sweet-hearts, whom I first came acquainted with at her house, but I saw by his habit, and afterwards found by the strength of his pocket, that he was but in a low condition, and was more ready to receive than give, this gentleman fastened upon me, and I could not deny going to take a glass with him at the tavern; but there he ingenuously told me, that hector was not in the field, that is, he had no money in his pocket; wherefore, tho' it was not very flush with me, having had so long a vacation, I was forced not only to pay the reckoning, but tip him a cart-wheel, anglice, a crown piece.

THIS put him in stock and in heart,
and

and he gratefully acknowledged my civility, assuring me, he would retaliate the favour, and talk'd of the thousands he had to receive. He was very solicitous to know my lodging, and I was as careful to conceal it from him, as I thought, but he dogged me, and made himself master of that secret.

THIS my old acquaintance, as he had been bit, and had others live upon him, so now having nothing left but his wits, he was forced to live upon others; for in less than a twelve months time, he had consumed a fortune of above three thousand pounds. He was young enough, and as desirous of my company as ever, but he knew I should give him little encouragement without the necessary recommendation, which being destitute of himself, he sought out for one that was better provided, and in London a man need not seek long to find those
who

who have more money than wit, so having got a chap for his purpose, he tells him of a rare prize he had got of a lady, with whom he had the happiness to be particularly acquainted, who was exquisitely handsome, witty, and genteel, and every thing in the world, to be sure, that was to be admired, if she could but be made flexible, and there was no doubt of that, when put to the trial by a gentleman of so much sense, and so fine an address as the cully who was to be taken in; and my old acquaintance had found a proper tool to work with, for the gallant was immediately all in a flame, not doubting one word of what the other had told him, and could not rest 'till he saw me. So away they came, and my old friend knowing that there was nothing like assurance, in an affair of this kind, knocked boldly at the door, and asked to see me, upon extraordinary business, without so much as questioning whither I lived

lived there, or not; so the people of the house believing him to be one of my intimate acquaintance, directly brought both him and his friend into my chamber.

I was somewhat surpris'd at the sight of him; but after the first salutes were over, he took me on one side, and privately told me all his design, and that the gentleman he had taken the liberty to bring with him, had a great deal of money, and much might be squeezed out of him. Although I was not yet resolv'd to fall to my trade, yet now he was come, I know not how to put him off; wherefore, I indifferently entertained them, and I may very well say indifferently, because I was yet cold in my desires, and had very little appetite; however, some bottles of wine being sent for we drank them off, and my young gentleman, being warm in his geers, began

to talk a little boldly, but it was to no purpose, for I forbade all action: And at that time he only purchased a kiss, but, that I may draw to a period in my discourse, I did not long continue so cold to him, for he bringing meat in his mouth, *viz.* good store of gold in his pocket, which he willingly and freely gave me, I permitted him to take all the pleasure he could receive from me.

Thus did I renew my old trade, and my old friend, who had brought this new acquaintance, finding some benefit and profit in the case, for he had money of his acquaintance whom he had brought as also of me, neither could I at convenient times deny him the pleasures he had formerly tasted with me; he, I say, having both pleasure and profit, turned broker for me, and brought me several merchants, who trafficked with me for pleasure, which I commonly made them

pay for, for I would not deal with every ordinary fellow, and therefore was paid the better by those who were my customers.

But let me do what I could, I saved little or nothing at the month's end, years I will not say, because I was weary of this trade in six months time, for I now had not only myself, but this my old acquaintance, and new broker to provide for; for he, finding that most of my profit came in by those he brought me, would be very bold in demanding a share with me; and his expences were so high, which he pretended were only occasioned by getting into the best company for my sake, that I was now poorer than ever, and he became so impudent, that he would not only command my money but my rings, and even my cloaths, and sell or pawn them as he thought proper; and indeed it is the misfortune of most of the
 ladies

ladies of our profession to have some such fellows hanging upon them to spend one way what we get another, besides I had other apprehensions of this friend, or hector of mine, for he was now grown so intemperate, that he kept all companies, and if I refused him money, or a night's lodging, he would go to any other common woman, the first he met with, and I might thereby have got something to stick longer by me than my gentleman himself. I was quite tired, and resolved to take the first opportunity to get rid of this tyrant, and it happened very luckily that in short time after I had taken up this resolution, I met with my present friend, who made a proposal of going abroad with him, I liked both him and his proposal too well to reject it, and so, sir, you now see me in the Indies.

The End of the Second VOLUME.

(63)

6 NO 63

